



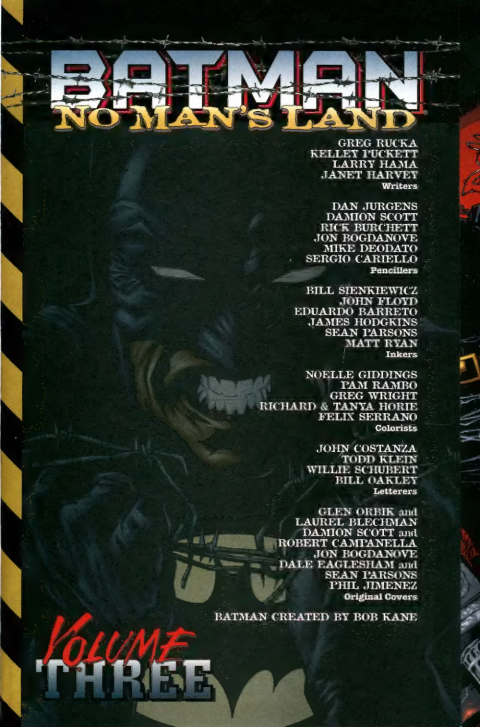
BATMAN

NO MAN'S LAND



VOLUME
THREE

Steph
Chaplin
+
Nate Posen



BATMAN

NO MAN'S LAND

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KELLEY PUCKETT
LARRY HAMA
JANET HARVEY
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DAMION SCOTT
RICK BURCHETT
JON BOGDANOVE
MIKE DEODATO
SERGIO CARIELLO
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JAMES HODGKINS
SEAN PARSONS
MATT RYAN
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GREG WRIGHT
RICHARD & TANYA HORIE
FELIX SERRANO
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WILLIE SCHUBERT
BILL OAKLEY
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DAMION SCOTT and
ROBERT CAMPANELLA
JON BOGDANOVE
DALE EAGLESHAM and
SEAN PARSONS
PHIL JIMENEZ
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BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE

VOLUME
THREE

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BATMAN: NO MAN'S LAND Volume 3

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THEY THOUGHT THE CATAclysm WAS THE GREATEST PERIL THE CITY WOULD EVER FACE.

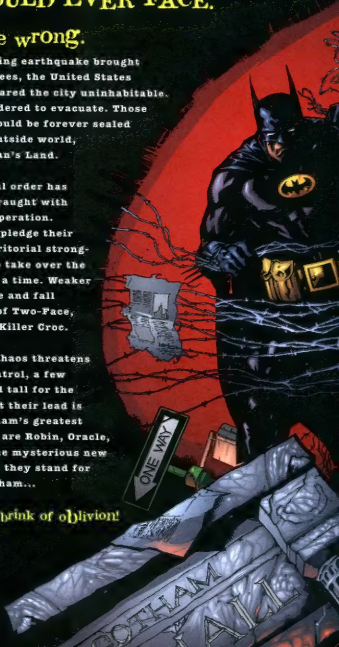
They were wrong.

After a devastating earthquake brought Gotham to its knees, the United States government declared the city uninhabitable. Citizens were ordered to evacuate. Those who remained would be forever sealed away from the outside world, trapped in No Man's Land.

Now, a new social order has emerged — one fraught with violence and desperation. Starving masses pledge their allegiance to territorial strongmen, who seek to take over the city one block at a time. Weaker warlords crumble and fall before the likes of Two-Face, the Penguin and Killer Croc.

But even as the chaos threatens to spin out of control, a few brave souls stand tall for the side of justice. At their lead is the Batman, Gotham's greatest hero. By his side are Robin, Oracle, Nightwing and the mysterious new Batgirl. Together they stand for the people of Gotham...

...A city at the brink of oblivion!



BATMAN

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 Malcolm Jones III

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 Mike Barr/Jerry Bingham

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BATMAN: KNIGHTFALL Part 2:
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BATMAN: KNIGHTFALL Part 3:
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 Various writers and artists

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 various

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 Jim Starlin/Jim Aparo/
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BATMAN: A LONELY PLACE OF DYING
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 Various writers and artists

BATMAN: FACES
 Matt Wagner

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 Grant Morrison/Klaus Janson

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 Jeph Loeb/Tim Sale

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 Dennis O'Neill/Neal Adams/
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 Howard Chaykin/Don Breiten

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 Dennis O'Neill/Trevor Van Emden/
 various

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 Dave Gibbons/Andy Kubert/
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 Various writers and artists

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 Various writers and artists

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 Chuck Dixon/Scott McDaniel/
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NIGHTWING: TIES THAT BIND
 Dennis O'Neill/Alan Grant/
 various

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 Chuck Dixon/Scott McDaniel/
 Karl Story

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 Chuck Dixon/Tim Lyle/
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...and after the Earth shattered and the buildings crumbled, the nation abandoned Gotham City. Then only the
valiant, the venal and the insane remained in the place they called

NO MAN'S LAND

THE VISITOR

KELLEY PUCKETT JON BOGARDONE EDUARDO BARRETO RICHARD & TANYA HORIE
-writer- -penciler- -inker- -computer colorists-
SCHURETY & COSTANZA JOSEPH ILLINOIS JORDAN W. KIMFINKEL DENNIS O'NEIL
-letterers- -assist. editor- -editor- -group editor-
Batman created by BOB KANE / Superman created by SIEGEL & SHUSTER



GOTHAM. IT'S WORSE
THAN I FEARED.

THIS CITY
NEEDS ME.



THESE POOR PEOPLE,
CAST OFF BY THEIR
OWN GOVERNMENT,
LOWED INTO SUBMISSION
BY PETTY TYRANTS.

NOT ANY-
MORE.

STEWED TOMATOES!!
ONE CAN OF STEWED TOMATOES!!
THAT'S YOUR TRIBUTE!! THAT'S
WHAT YOU BRING TO ME!!

IT'S ALL
I'VE GOT,
MAD
HATTER.



eh?







A comic book page featuring Batman and Superman. Batman stands on the left in his iconic suit, looking towards Superman. Superman is in the center, flying or running towards the right, looking back at Batman. The background is a dark, cloudy sky. The page is divided into several panels. The top left panel shows Batman's full figure. The top right panel is a close-up of Batman's face, showing a slight smile. The middle panel shows Superman from the chest up, looking determined. The bottom panel is a large close-up of Superman's face, looking intense.

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?

I CAME TO HELP.

THEN LEAVE. YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR ELEMENT HERE. NOW MORE THAN EVER.

I KNEW I'D HAVE TO DO THIS SOONER OR LATER. DON'T ANTAGONIZE HIM.

I RESPECT YOU, BATMAN. AND I'VE RESPECTED YOUR SOVEREIGNTY OVER THIS CITY.

THAT HASN'T ALWAYS BEEN EASY.

BUT THESE PEOPLE NEED MY HELP. AND I WOULDN'T LET YOU STOP ME.

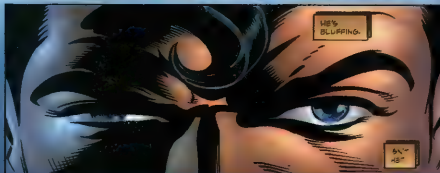
SAY IT. HE NEEDS TO KNOW I'M SERIOUS.

...EVEN IF YOU COULD.



IS THAT A
SMILE?

WHAT
MAKES YOU
THINK I
CAN'T?

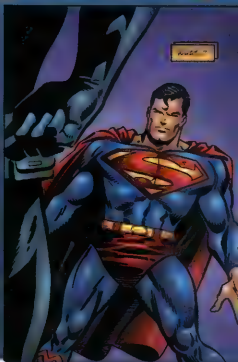


HE'S
BLUFFING.

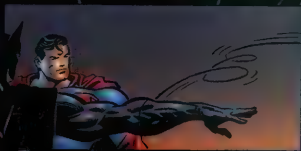
5'11"
185



REACHING FOR
"GORE" - NO



4'11"





THE QUAKE
TOOK MOST OF THE
MEN. THE RIOTS TOOK
THE REST.



I'M THE
ONLY ONE
LEFT

THEN
WE'D BETTER GET
STARTED. WHAT'S
OUR FIRST
MOVE?

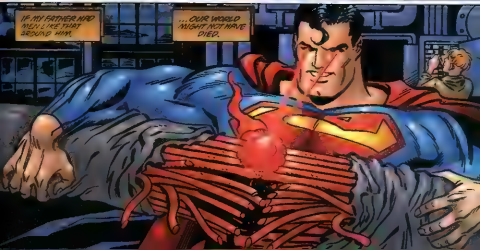


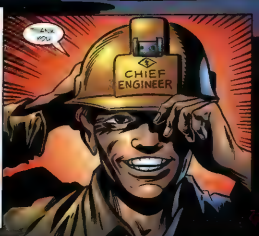
SURE I KNOW IT
LOOKS IMPOSSIBLE, BUT
WE'LL JUST TAKE IT STEP
BY STEP

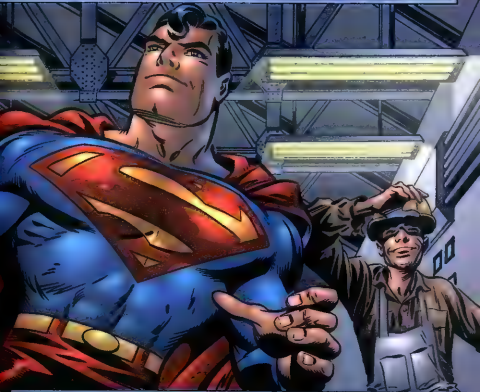
NOW
WHAT DO WE DO
FIRST?



CONDUIT.
CHECK THE
HIGH POWER
CONDUIT.







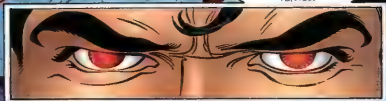




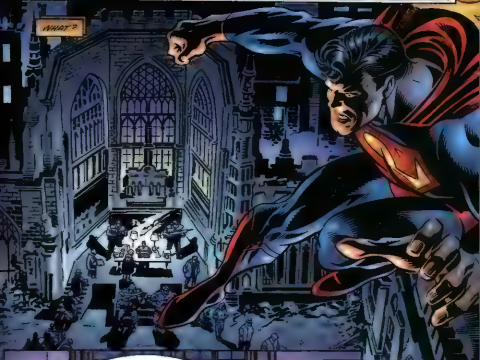






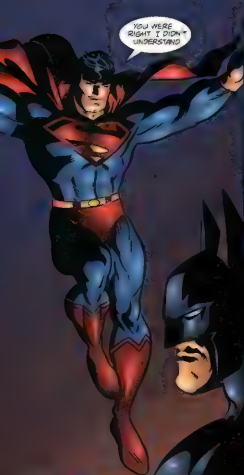












...and after the Earth shattered and the buildings crumbled, the nation abandoned Gotham City. Then only the valiant, the venal and the insane remained in the place they called

NO MAN'S LAND

HE SAW THE LIGHTS OF CHINATOWN FROM HALF-WAY ACROSS A DARKENED GOTHAM.

A BLAZE OF NEON AND FLUORESCENTS WHERE THERE SHOULD BE ONLY CANDLELIGHT AND OPEN FLAMES.

AN ENIGMA WORTH INVESTIGATION

BUT, THE MORE HE SEES, THE MORE HE IS PUZZLED...

POWER PLAY

LARRY NAMA - WRITER
RICK BURCHETT - PENCILLER
JAMES HODGKINS - INKER
FELIX SERRANO - COLORIST
BILL OAKLEY - LETTERER
JOSEPH ILLIDGE - ASSOCIATE ED.
DENNIS O'NEIL - EDITOR
BATMAN created by BOB KANE

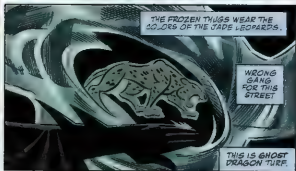
THE GELID TABLEAU BEFORE HIM CAN BE THE WORK OF NO ONE BUT MR. FREEZE.



... AT THE AUXILIARY POWER STATION?



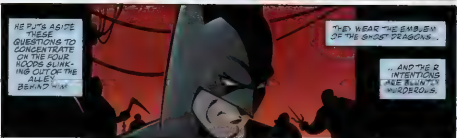
THE FROZEN THUGS WEAR THE COLORS OF THE JADE LEOPARDS.



WHY FURNITURE? IS MR. FREEZE CORNERING THE MARKET ON ASIAN ANTIQUES?

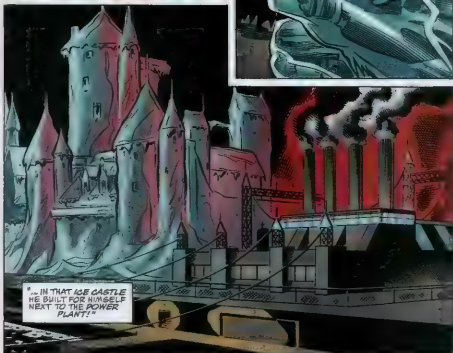


HE PUTS ASIDE THESE QUESTIONS TO CONCENTRATE ON THE FOUR HOODS SLINKING OUT OF THE ALLEY BEHIND HIM.









LATER, INSIDE THE POWER PLANT...



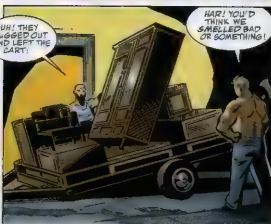
ANOTHER DELIVERY

CLANG! CLANG!

CHILL OUT
WE'RE ON
OUR WAY!



WHRRRRR



HUH! THEY
BUGGED OUT
AND LEFT THE
CART!

HAR! YOU'D
THINK YOU'D
SMELLED BAD
OR SOMETHING!



LET'S
HAUL IT
INSIDE.



OBTUSOUSLY,
YOU'VE NEVER
READ THE
ILIAD.

WHA--? IT'S
BATMAN!

MEANWHILE...

SO MUCH
CHAOS OUT
THERE

SO MUCH
EVIL, ANGER
AND LAW-
LESSNESS.

SUCH
WRETCHED
DARKNESS
THAT THEY
ALL REVEAL
IN.

AND YET THEY
GRAVE THE LIGHT
THAT ONLY I CAN
PROVIDE--BUT ONLY
IF THEY BARTER
FUEL FOR MY
FURNACES.

IT'S THE
DESTRUCTION OF THE
INFRASTRUCTURE THAT
I'M ORCHESTRATING
HERE.

THE STRIPPING
OF GOTHAM TO
ITS BARE
BONES

THE
PILLAGING OF THE
CITY THAT THE
ACCURSED BATMAN
HOLDS DEAR...

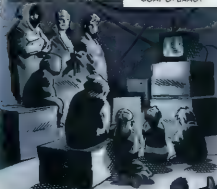


PRICELESS
ANTIQUES, GREAT
WORKS OF ART, FAMILY
HEIRLOOMS...



"... ALL OF IT WORTHLESS
IN NO MAN'S LAND..."

"... EXCEPT
AS FUEL!"



"AND WHAT DO THE FOOLS
USE THEIR PRECIOUS
POWER FOR?"

"TO WATCH MINDLESS
SITCOMS AND INANE
SOAP OPERAS!"



"HOW IT MUST GALL BATMAN
TO SEE GOTHAMITES MURDER
EACH OTHER OVER FRIVOLOUS
DIVERSIONS!"

"THIS IS WHAT BATMAN
DESERVES..."



... TO SEE
EVERYTHING THAT
HE CARES ABOUT
BROUGHT DOWN AND
DEGRADED!

TO SEE
ANARCHY REIGN
WHERE THE RULE
OF LAW ONCE HELD
SWAY.



BATMAN! HE NEVER UNDERSTOOD THAT THE ONLY REASON I BECAME MR. FREEZE WAS TO SAVE MY BELOVED NORA!

I FROZE HER MYSELF IN THE HOPE THAT I MIGHT THAW HER WHEN MEDICAL SCIENCE FOUND A CURE FOR HER DISEASE...

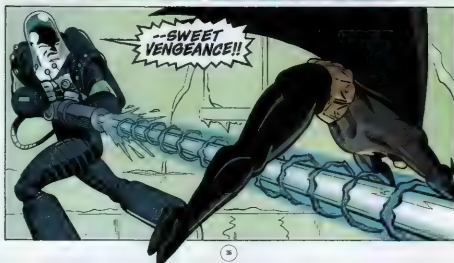
"... BUT THAT MEDDLING, UNFEELING BATMAN RUINED ALL MY PLANS!

"MY BEAUTIFUL NORA WAS TAKEN FROM ME FOREVER BECAUSE OF BATMAN!

"I SWEAR TO YOU, NORA-- THAT I SHALL HAVE MY REVENGE AGAINST BATMAN FOR YOU!"

DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT'S WHAT SHE WOULD WANT, FRIES?

HUH?





REVENGE IS NOT SWEET, FRIES--

--IT IS A BITTER PILL!

AND THAT PILL IS AN EROSION MEDICATION--

--THAT EATS AWAY AT YOUR SOUL!

AREN'T YOU CONVENIENTLY FORGETTING THAT IT WAS A BLAST FROM YOUR OWN FREEZE RAY...

THAT SHATTERED THE FROZEN BODY OF YOUR WIFE??



HOW DARE YOU
INSINUATE THAT I
WAS RESPONSIBLE
FOR THE DEATH
OF NORA ?!

AFTER MUCH PONDERING, I HAVE COME
TO THE INEVITABLE CONCLUSION THAT YOU
PURPOSELY SET UP THAT SITUATION BY
POSITIONING YOURSELF IN FRONT OF NORA
AND BAITING ME TO SHOOT!

YOU ARE
DOUBLY
CULPABLE!



WHAT ABOUT
YOUR OWN
MOTIVATIONS?

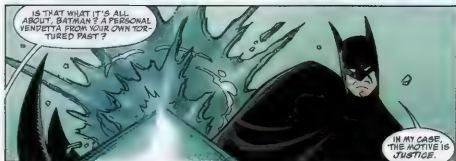
WHY ARE YOU
COMING AFTER
ME WHEN
PENGUIN AND
OTHER VILLAINS
HAVE THEIR OWN
BAILIWICKS OF
CRIMINAL
ENDEAVOR?

COULD IT
HAVE SOMETHING
TO DO WITH WHAT
I DID TO
ROBIN... ?



...OR IS THERE SOME
OLDER, DEEPER ROOT TO
YOUR VIGILANTISM?

JUST WHY DO
YOU DO WHAT YOU DO?
IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE
THE SORT OF LIFELONG
DEDICATION THAT
ONE MAKES
ARBITRARILY!

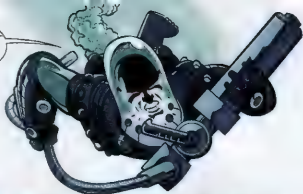


IS THAT WHAT IT'S ALL
ABOUT, BATMAN? A PERSONAL
VENDETTA FROM YOUR OWN TOR-
TURED PAST?

IN MY CASE,
THE MOTIVE IS
JUSTICE.



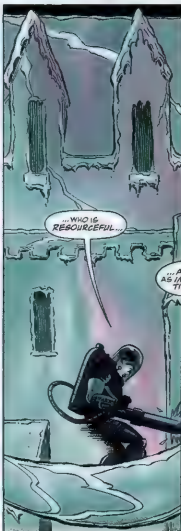
... BUT YOU
HAVE FINALLY MET
A FOE AS CLEVER
AS YOU THINK
YOU ARE!



AND
ONE...



... WHO IS
RESOURCEFUL...



... AS WELL
AS IMAGINA-
TIVE...





IN THE POWER PLANT...



A full-page comic book illustration showing Batman in a dark, tattered suit with a yellow utility belt, standing amidst a chaotic scene of shattered blue and grey debris. He is looking down with a grimace. In the background, a man in a dark suit is seen from the chest up, looking up at Batman. The scene is set against a dark, reddish-brown background.

... AS EVERY CHESS
PLAYER KNOWS, IT DOESN'T
MATTER HOW CLEVER,
RESOURCEFUL OR IMAGI-
NATIVE YOU ARE--

--IF YOU
DON'T THINK
FIVE MOVES
AHEAD!

KEE-RACK!

I'M NOT
N CHUCK YET
BATMAN--



--I'VE YET TO
BRING MY CASTLE
INTO PLAY!

YOU HAD
BETTER WATCH OUT
FOR THE DARK
KNIGHT--

--HE ATTACKS
FROM AN ODD
ANGLE!



ENOUGH OF
THIS FOOLISH-
NESS!

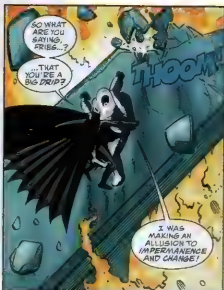
I AM
PREPARED TO
SWEEP THE
PIECES FROM
THE BOARD--



GIVE IT
UP, FRIES...

...YOUR WORLD
IS CRUMBLING!

OF COURSE
IT CRUMBLES...



"...I ALSO JAMMED
ALL THE EMERGENCY
ESCAPE VALVES!"

BA-DOOOOM!







...and after the Earth shattered and the buildings crumbled, the nation abandoned Gotham City. Then only the valiant, the venal and the insane remained in the place they called **NO MAN'S LAND**

MARK OF CAIN

PART ONE

KELLEY
PACKETT,
WRITER

DAMON
SCOTT,
PENCILLER

JOHN
FLOYD,
INKER

GREG
WRIGHT,
COLORIST

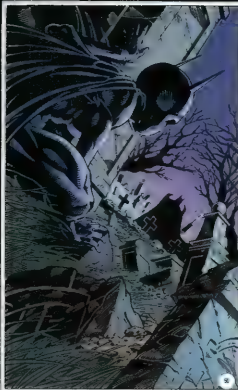
TODD
KLEIN,
LETTERER

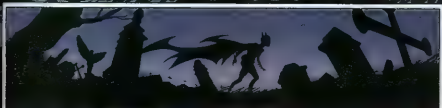
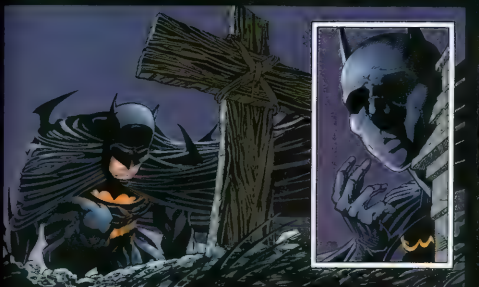
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ILLIDGE,
ASSOC. ED.

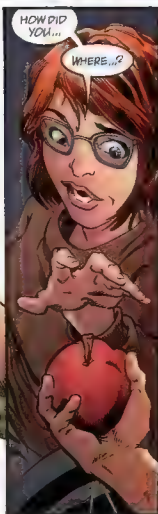
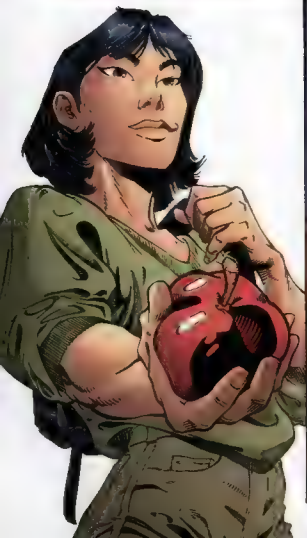
DARRIN
VINCIGUZZO,
EDITOR

DENNIS O'NEIL,
GROUP EDITOR

BATMAN
CREATED BY
STEVE DINE



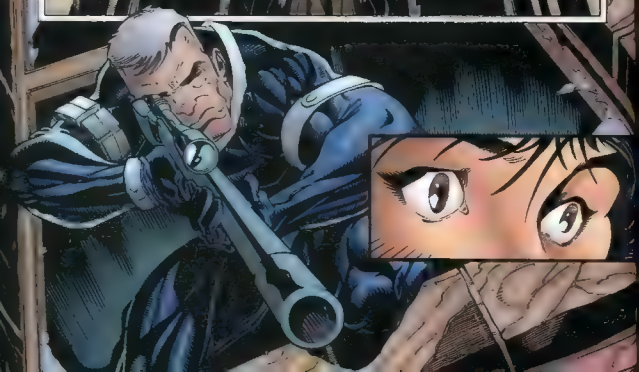
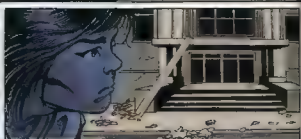






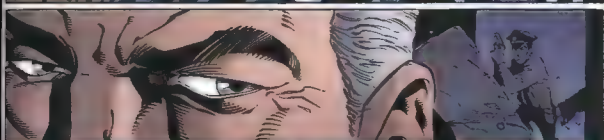














I'M RUNNING
OUT OF OPTIONS,
HARVEY.



THOSE PEOPLE YOU...
SLAUGHTERED, I VOWED
TO AVENGE THEM, HARVEY
ON THEIR GRAVES



HOW AM
I GOING TO
DO THAT?

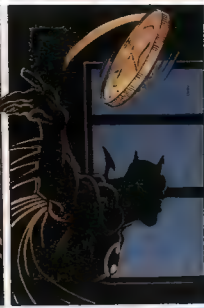
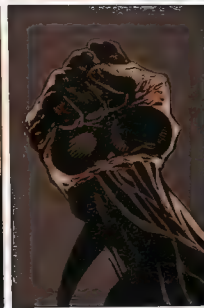
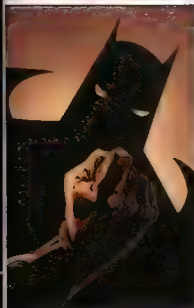
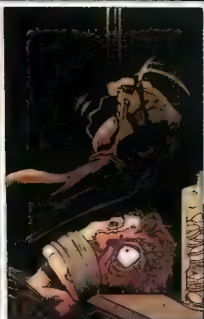


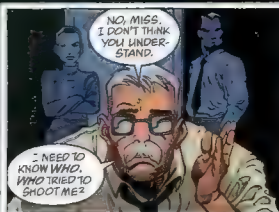
THERE'S NO
JUDGE TO SENTENCE
YOU. NO JURY TO
CONVICT

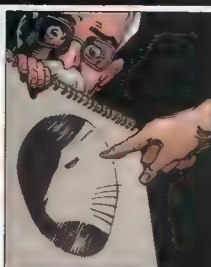
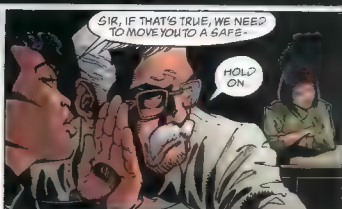


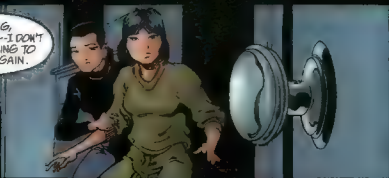
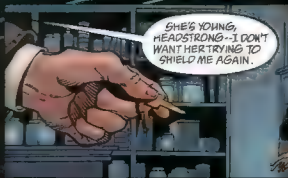
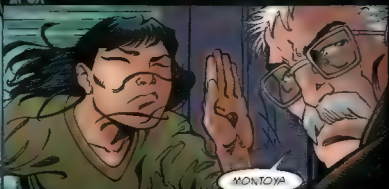
SO
WHAT'S
LEFT?

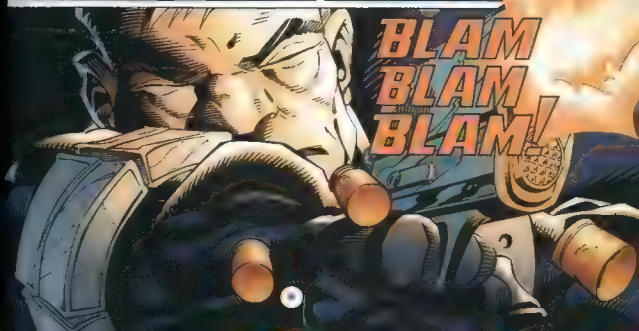
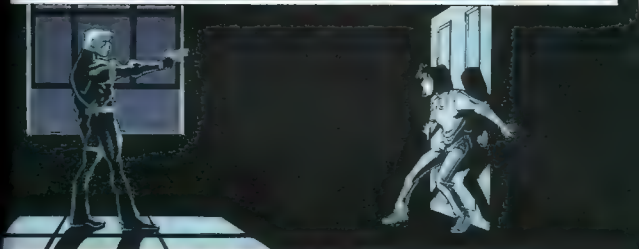




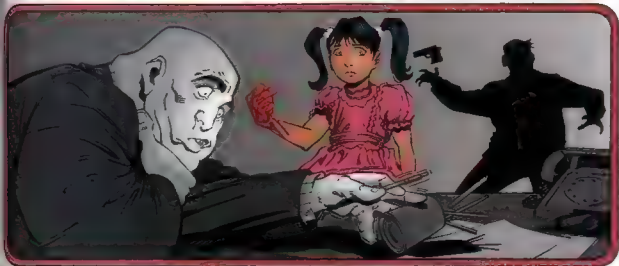
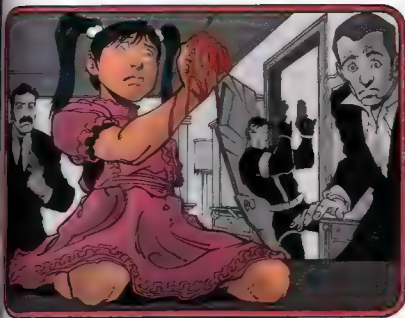


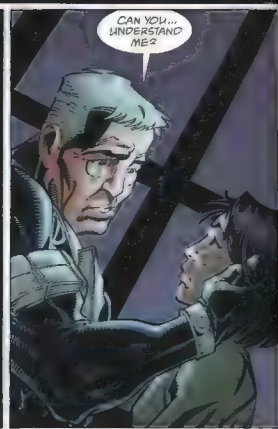


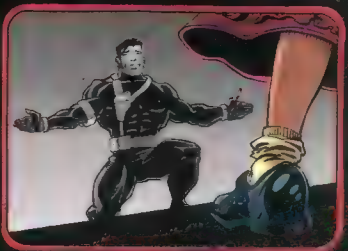
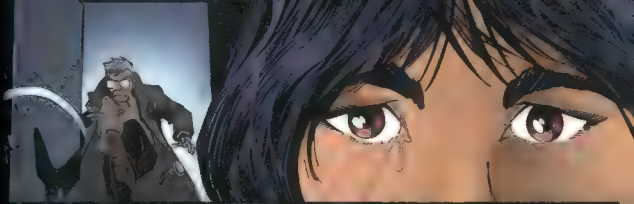














...and after the Earth shattered and the buildings crumbled, the nation abandoned Gotham City. Then only the valiant, the venal and the insane remained in the place they called **NO MAN'S LAND**

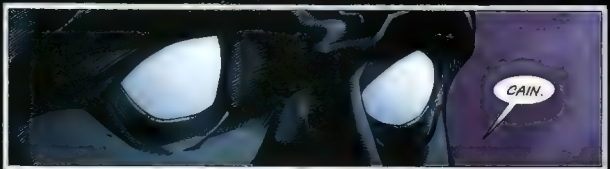
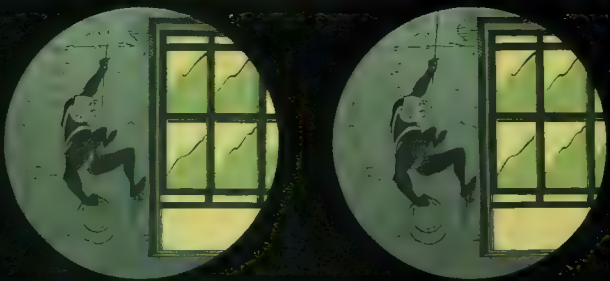
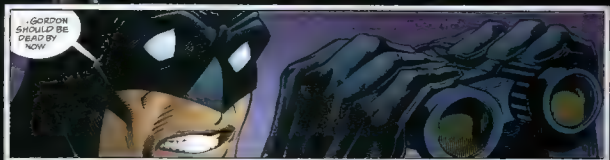
MARK OF CAIN

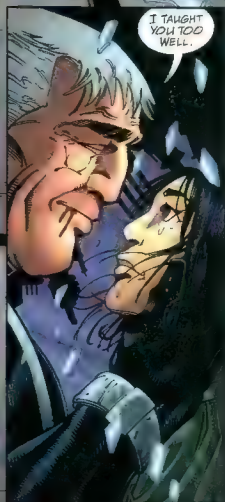
PART TWO

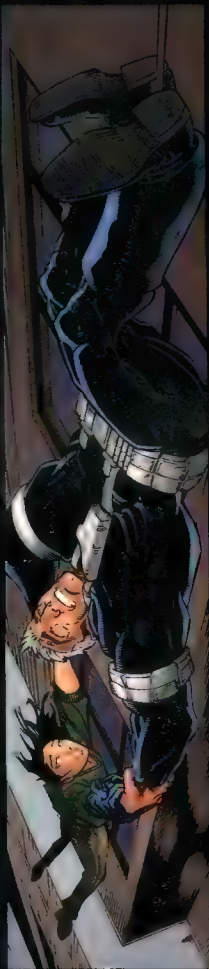
HE THINKS HE
CAN SCARE ME
THINKS HE CAN
STOP ME

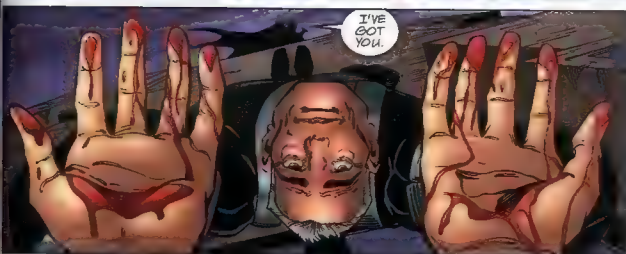
THERE'S NOTHING
WRONG WITH HIM. A
BULLET IN THE HEAD
WOULD FIX

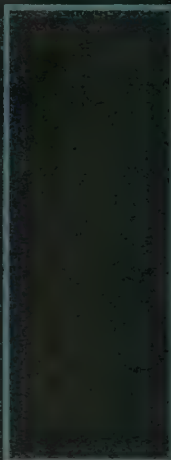
KELLEY TACKETT WRITER DANNY SALT PENCILER
JOHN FLOYD INKER GREG WRIGHT COLOURIST
LODD ALLEN LETTERS JOSEPH ILLIDGE ASAC ED
DARREN VINCENZO EDITOR BATMAN CREATED
BY BOB KANE

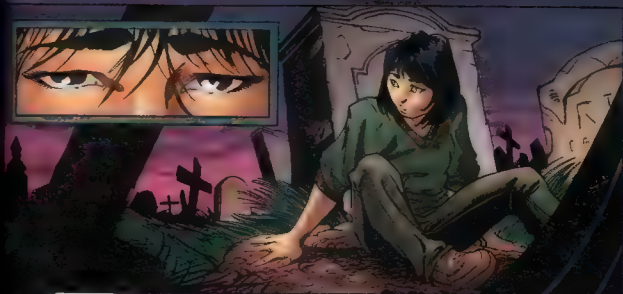












WHO ARE
YOU?



WHAT'S
YOUR CONNECTION
TO CAIN?



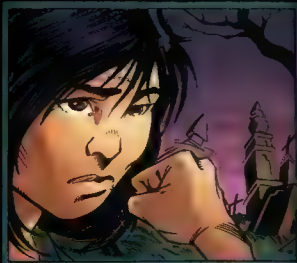
ANSWER ME

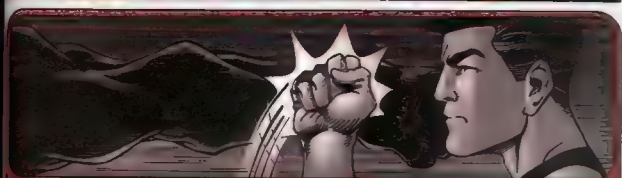
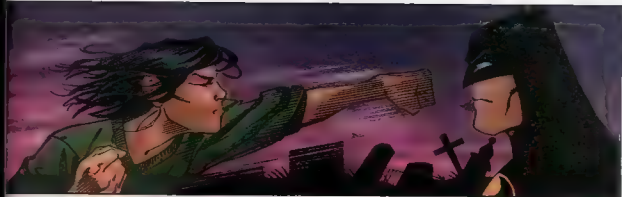
DO YOU...SPEAK
ENGLISH?



QU'Ò YU? NIHONGO?
TAGALOG?









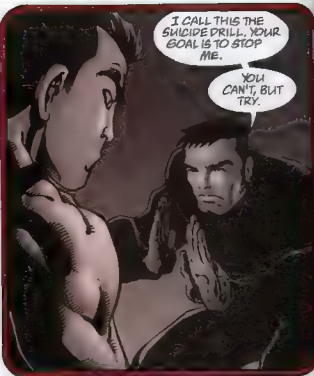
NO, CAIN'S
NOT YOUR
PROBLEM.



TWO-FACE
HIRED HIM. THAT
MAKES HIM MY
PROBLEM.



WHAT?
WHAT'RE
YOU..

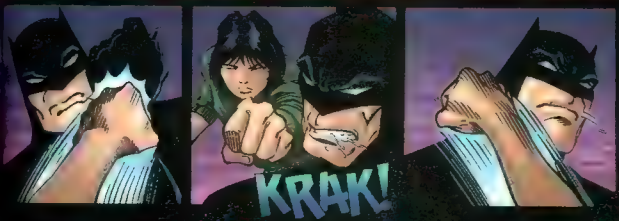
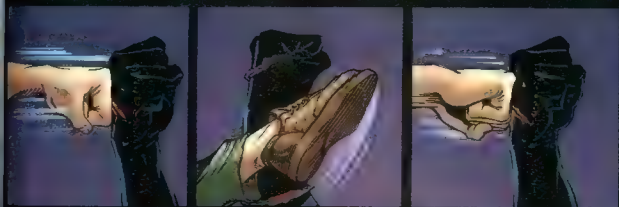


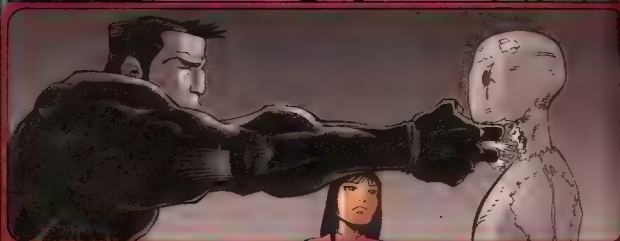
I CALL THIS THE
SUICIDE DRILL. YOUR
GOAL IS TO STOP
ME.

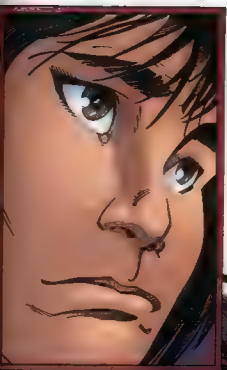
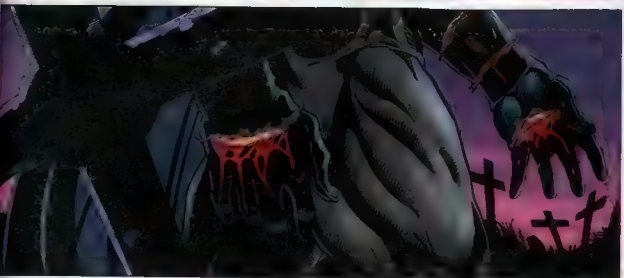
YOU
CAN'T, BUT
TRY.

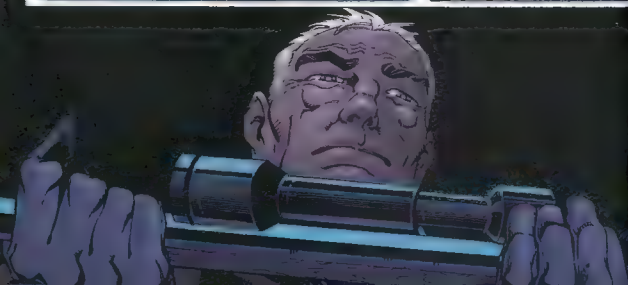
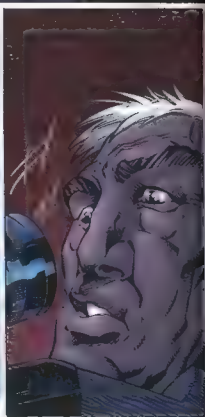


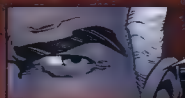
DON'T WORRY.
I CAN STOP
HIM.



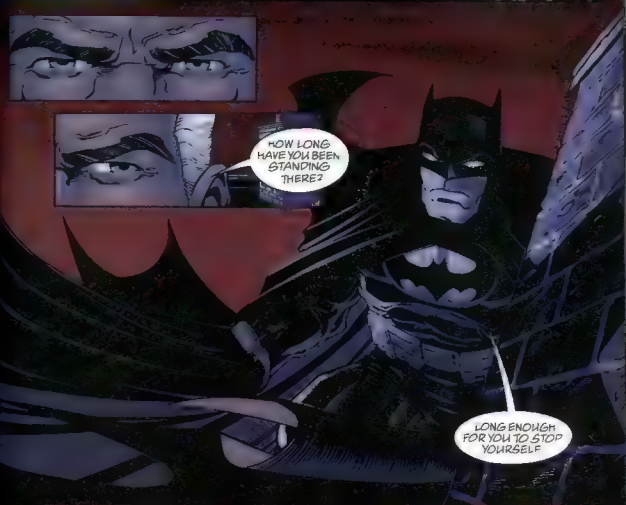








HOW LONG
HAVE YOU BEEN
STANDING
THERE?



LONG ENOUGH
FOR YOU TO STOP
YOURSELF





THE NOOSES
ARE STRUNG. WHEN-
EVER YOU'RE READY



HUH?

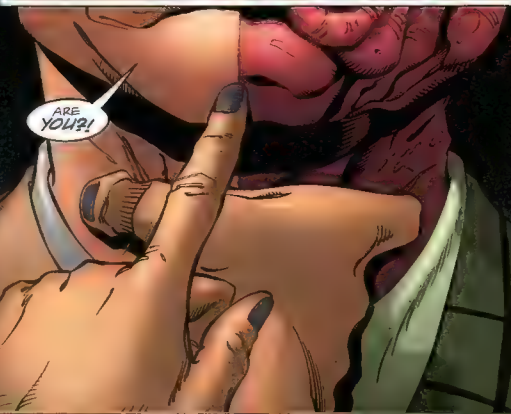
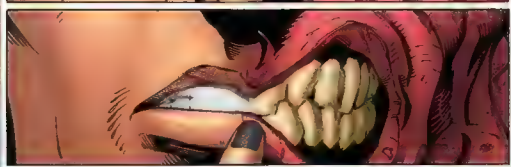
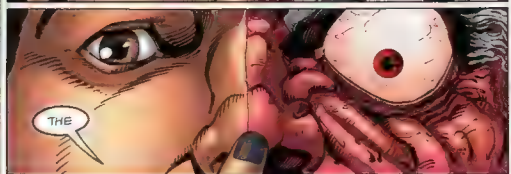
OH, SORRY

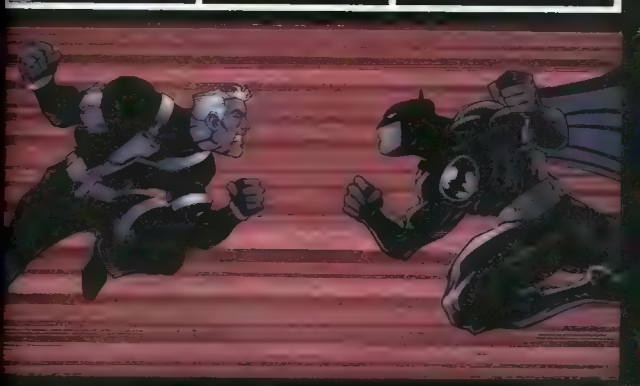


DON'T KNOW
WHERE MY HEAD IS
THESE DAYS

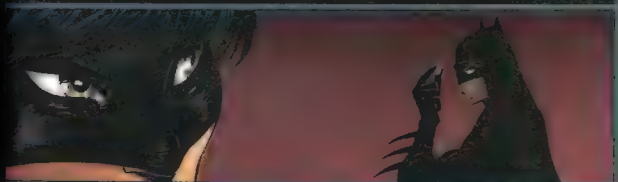
Ting













YOU
SAVED HIS
LIFE.



I CAN'T
THANK YOU
ENOUGH



YES, THAT'S ME.
IT WAS A LONG
TIME AGO



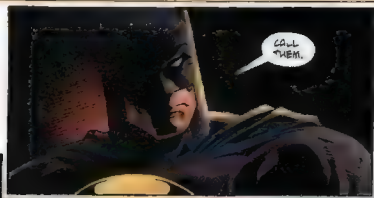
TAKE IT
I WANT YOU TO
HAVE IT.

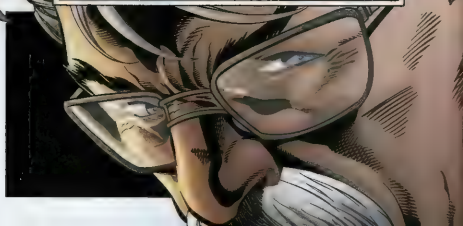


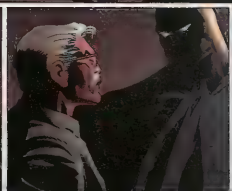
ORACLE

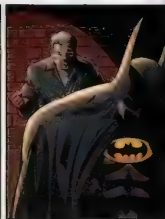
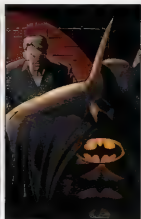
CALL
THEM.

...and after the Earth shattered and the buildings crumbled, the nation abandoned Gotham City. Then only the valiant, the venal and the insane remained in the place they called **NO MAN'S LAND**







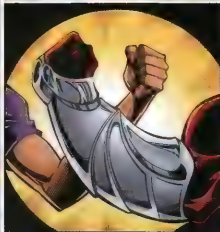




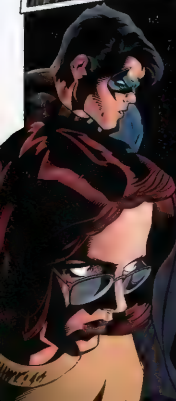
JIM

I HEARD SHOUTING

JIM









YOU'VE
COME FAR.
NOW I NEED
YOU TO WAIT
HERE.

NOTHING
YOU'RE WITH
ME.



OH, SO
THAT'S HOW IT'S GOING
TO BE?



AND
WHERE
ARE WE
GOING
?

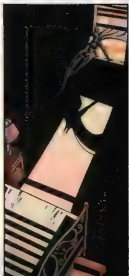
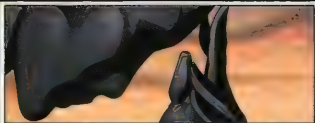
YOU'LL
SEE.



RELAX,
ROBIN.



...SHE'S
JUST SAYING
HELLO







SIX PEOPLE ARE DEAD.

MY FAULT AS MUCH AS YOURS.



YOU WANT TO KEEP THAT LOWLY?

I HAVE TO BE ABLE TO TRUST YOU. I HAVE TO KNOW THAT YOU'LL FOLLOW ORDERS.

I TRIED--

TRYING ISN'T ENOUGH.



YOU WERE TO STOP BLACK MASK OUT OF SIGHT OF THE CLOCK-TOWER, YOU FAILED.



I TOLD YOU NOT TO FOLLOW ME WHEN I TOOK BLACK MASK INTO CUSTODY. YOU DISOBEYED.



I TOLD YOU TO PROTECT OUR TERRITORY, OUR PEOPLE...



BUT TWO-FACE NOW COMMANDS THAT LAND.

AND SIX MORE BODIES ARE IN THE GROUND.

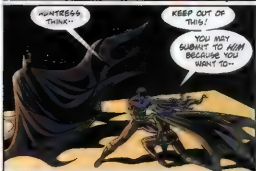
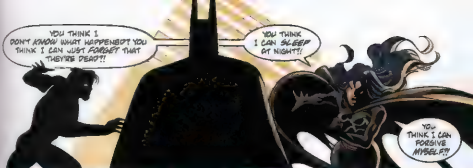


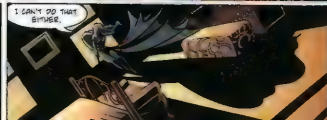
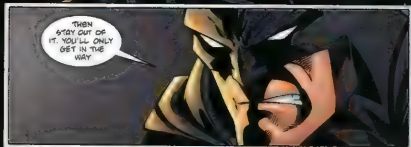
AND YOU BLAME ME!

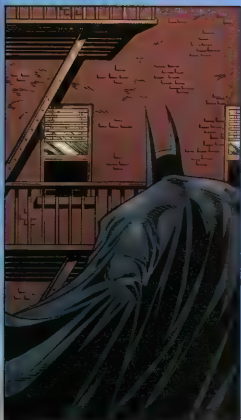
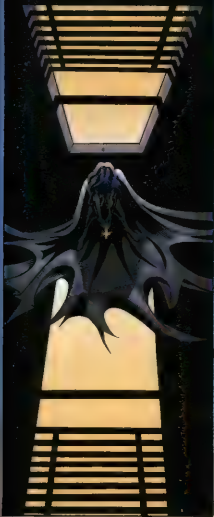
NO.

I HOLD YOU RESPONSIBLE.

AS I HOLD MYSELF







A large, dark, bat-like silhouette of Batman is shown in flight against a cloudy sky. The silhouette is positioned in the upper left and center of the page. Below it, the city of Gotham is visible, with a large building on the left and a clock tower on the right. The scene is set during the day with a hazy, pinkish sky.

YOU CAN'T
PUSH HER LIKE THAT
AND EXPECT HER TO
PLAY ALONG.

I
KNOW

THEN YOU
KNOW SHE *AIN'T*
"STAY OUT OF IT."
SHE'LL GO
ROGUE.

YES.

Uh-oh. I know that
tone. That's the "I HAVE A
PLAN" TONE.

YES.

I
MADE A
MESS OF
IT,
DICK.

I TRIED
TO PRETEND
IT WAS THE
SAME. I KNEW
WHAT I WAS
WORKING
FOR--

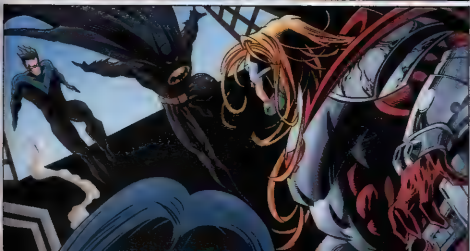
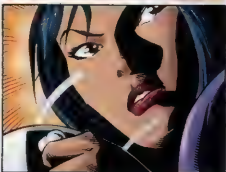
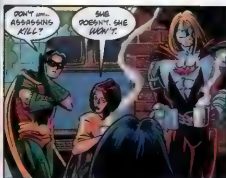
--GOTHAM'S
REDEMPTION-- BUT I DIDN'T
KNOW HOW TO GET THERE.

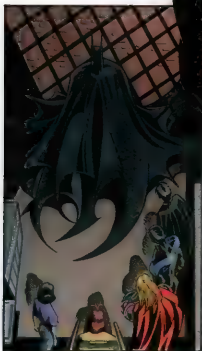
WHAT
TWO-FACE
DID WOKE
ME UP.

THAT'S
WHY YOU
CALLED FOR
US.

YES.

LET'S
GO. ORACLE IS
WAITING.





I
NEED
YOUR
HELP.



I THOUGHT
I COULD--I THOUGHT
I NEEDED TO DO
THIS ALONE--A
"BACK TO BASICS"
APPROACH.

I WAS
WRONG.



NO ONE PERSON CAN DO
THIS ALONE...

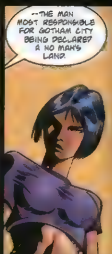
NO MAN'S
LAND IS TOO BIG...
TOO... DARK.

THE ONLY
WAY TO BRING LIGHT BACK
TO GOTHAM IS WORKING
TOGETHER.



ALL
OF US







ANY
QUESTIONS?



IT IS
A SACRED
TRUST



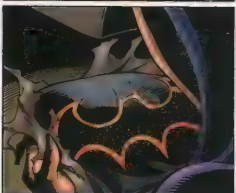
REMEMBER
THAT.



HONOR
IT.



YOU
CAN CHANGE
IN THE BED-
ROOM.





...and after the Earth shattered and the buildings crumbled, the nation abandoned Gotham City. Then only the valiant, the venal and the insane remained in the place they called

NO MAN'S LAND

Fruit Of the Earth Part One

NML Day 23

GREG RUCKA • writer
DAN JURGENS • art
BILL SIENKIEWICZ • inks
JOHN COSTANZA • letters
NOELLE GIDDINGS • colors
JOSEPH ILLIDGE • associate editor
DARRIN VINCENTO • asst. editor
DENNIS O'NEIL • group editor

Salmon created by Bob Kane

CLOSED

Buyers
WILL BE
PROSECUTED
To The Full
Extent of the
LAW





WHERE IS SHE?



PLEASE GO AWAY
...JUST LEAVE US ALONE--



YOU'LL TELL ME, LITTLE GIRL...



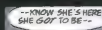
COME BACK HERE!



LIKE IT OR NOT



I'LL BURN IT FROM YOU--



--KNOW SHE'S HERE
SHE GOT TO BE--



--KEEPING
YOU LITTLE
GARDEN
ELVES--



NYARH!!

BRATS!
I'LL KILL
YA BOTH!



--COME
ON
HURRY--



NO!
LEAVE US
ALONE!
LEAVE--



--ALMOST
THERE JUST--



HE'S RIGHT
BEHIND--





I HAVE NO
INTEREST IN
YOUR
DEALS...

...NO
INTEREST
IN YOU, IN ANY
OF YOU ON
THE OUT-
SIDE.

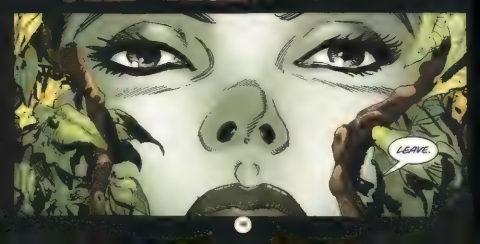
THIS
PARK, THIS
IS GOTHAM NOW...
IT'S FUTURE...
RECLAIMED BY NATURE,
PURE, WITHOUT
HUMANITY'S
ASSAULTS.

IT IS A
SANCTUARY
NOW. AND I AM
GUARDIAN.

I WILL
NOT LET IT BE
DERILED.

NOT BY
ANYONE.

CERTAINLY
NOT BY YOU.



LEAVE.



WE'VE
GOT A CHANCE
HERE TO BE
RICH, IVY.

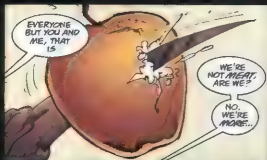
THE KEY IS
PRODUCE, SWEET-
HEART. FRESH FRUIT.
FRESH VEGETABLES.



IN ANOTHER
MONTH *EVERYONE* IN
THIS TOWN IS GOING TO
BE SUFFERING FROM
SCURVY AND
RICKETS...

...ALL THOSE FUN
DISEASES YOU GET
WHEN YOU *DON'T* DO
LIKE MAMA
SAYS...

...WHEN
YOU DON'T
EAT YOUR
FRUITS AND
VEGGIES



EVERYONE
BUT YOU AND
ME, THAT
IS

WE'RE
NOT *MEAT*,
ARE WE?

NO,
WE'RE
MORE...



FIGURE YOU GROW
IT, YOUR BRATS
HARVEST THE
CROP...

...AND
I HANDLE
DISTRIBUTION.

WHAT
DO YOU SAY,
GORGEOUS?



LET'S SEAL THE
DEAL...

WITH A KISS



NICE TRY



... ASSUMED
IT WAS PENGUIN'S
DOING...

... THAT SOMEHOW HE'D WORKED
AN AGREEMENT WITH IVY FOR FRESHIES
FROM THE PARK. YOU COULD ASK
HIM, YOU KNOW.

NO.
ANYTHING
MORE?



JANESSA, ONE
OF MY AGENTS,
GAVE ME A
REPORT WAY
BACK ON DAY 10
ABOUT AGENTS
BEING SEEN IN
THE PARK--

...??

--YEAH. NO IDEA WHAT
THEY WERE DOING, AND I DIDN'T
WANT HER ENTERING THE PARK TO FOLLOW UP

SO YOU
DROPPED
IT

ROBIN AND I WILL
GO IN TONIGHT

IS IT ME, OR HAS
THE CHIP GOTTEN
BIGGER?

THE ONE ON HIS
SHOULDER, YOU
MEAN?

YEAH

YES

AND THAT'S
ALL I'VE
GOT ON
THE
PARK.

IT'S
GOTTEN
BIGGER.

THOUGHT
SO.





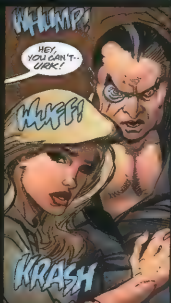
SENTLY, M DEAR
SENTLY...



I'VE HAD QUITE
ENOUGH PAIN FROM
THAT WOUND
ALREADY.

SORRY, MR
COBBLEPOT

THERE'S
A DEAR--



HEY,
YOU CAN'T..
URK!

WHUFF!

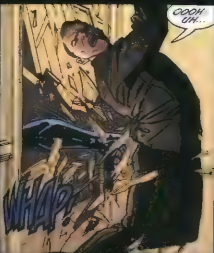
KRASH



MR. COBBLEPOT
SIR, BATMAN--

YES, I CAN HEAR
THAT LET HIM IN
ALREADY, YOU
FOOL.

VERY
GOOD, SIR



GOOH
UH..





JUST THE PERSON I DIDN'T WANT TO SEE...

POISON VV, TELL ME.



I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU MEAN, DEAR CHAP.



THIS IS A ROYAL ECREE PEAR...

...CONSIDERED THE FINEST IN THE WORLD



YOU KNOW ME, OLD FELLOW ONLY THE BEST..

...IT'S OUT OF SEASON

...UNIQUE TO EASTERN EUROPE



WITH THE EXCEPTION OF A SINGLE ECREE TREE IN THE ROBINSON PARK BOTANICAL GARDEN...



THIS
HURTS

I HEAR
SHE'S USING
KIDS.

HURTS
QUITE A
LOT,
ACTUALLY.

I'M
LOSING
PATIENCE.

NOT...NOT
TO MY
KNOWLEDGE...

THEN
HOW--?

CLAYFACE
ARRANGED
IT--THE
THESPAN
VERSION,
IN CASE YOU'RE
WONDERING
HE'S BEEN MAKING
THE DELIVERIES...
...THAT'S ALL
I KNOW.

AND FOR THIS
CLAYFACE
GETS WHAT?

MONEY
AN ACCOUNT
IN GRAND
CAYMAN
THAT HAS
GROWN
IN THE LAST
SEVERAL
MONTHS.

OLIVE? CANCEL THE
LAST TRANSFER TO
CREDIT GRANDE
CAYMAN...

YES, MR.
COBBLEPOD

OH, AND
OLIVE...

YOU'RE
FIRED



--OUR
TERMS! WE
WANT THE RETURN
OF BLACK
MASK--

TOLD YOU
ALREADY, DEADMEAT,
THAT AIN'T GONNA
HAPPEN!

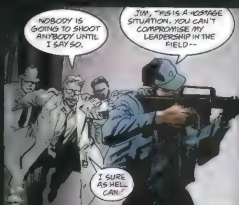
GET READY
TO TAKE 'EM
DOWN.

WE CAN
STILL
NEGOTIATE--

SHUT UP,
MONTOVA!

NEGOTIATIONS
MAKE ME
SICK.

THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE! LET
THE HOSTAGES GO AND NO
ONE GETS HURT!









TELL ME AGAIN WHAT
WE'RE AFTER?

GOTHAM'S
INSURANCE

OF
COURSE

AND
THAT WOULD
BE WHAT,
EXACTLY?

DON'T
MIND ME,
I'M JUST THE
SIDEKICK...

BRING A
MACHETE?

KRAK-AK

YOU
DO
THAT?

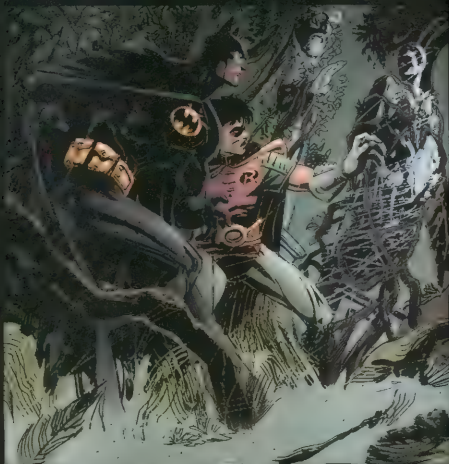
YES

WHY SHE'S
LETTING
US IN

SHE
KNOWS
WE'RE
HERE?

YES

PLASH



EMPEROR NERO THEY
SAY HE PLAYED THE
FIDDLE WHILE ROME
BURNED.

NOW
APPROPRIATE

DON'T
MISTAKE
GOTHAM'S
FALL FOR
ROME'S,
ROBIN.

WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?

UNLOCKING
THE DOOR

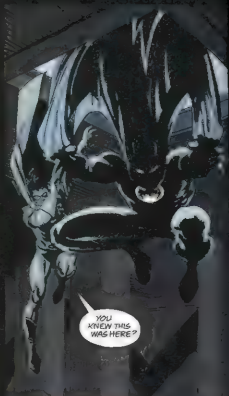
CHAK



CALIGULA
MEANS 'LITTLE
BOOTS' IN LATIN
HE WANTED TO
BE A SOLDIER.



WE ALSO MADE
HIS HORSE PROCON-
SUL OR SOMETHING
LIKE THAT, RIGHT?



YOU
KNEW THIS
WAS HERE?

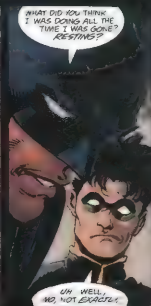


BEEP

I
BUILT
IT.
LIGHTS.



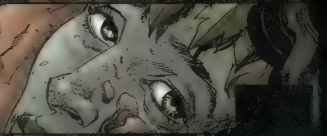
CHK CHAK





I KNEW
YOU'D COME,
LOVER...

...I JUST
HOPE YOU'RE
NOT TOO
LATE...



and after the Earth shattered and the buildings crumbled, the nation abandoned Gotham City. Then only the valiant, the venal and the insane remained in the place they called

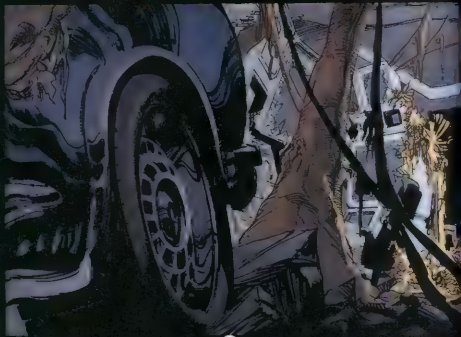
NO MAN'S LAND

FRUIT Of the EARTH Part Two

GREG RUCCA *writer*
DAN JURGENS *and*
BILL SIMKOWICZ *artists*
NOELLE GIDDINGS *colorist*
WILDSTORM *color expansion*
JOHN COSTANZA *letterer*
JOSEPH ILLIDGE *associate editor*
DARRIN VINCENZO *editor*
DENNIS ONCE *group editor*

I KNEW
YOU'D
COME.

I
KNEW.





EXPLAIN
IT. FAST.



THEY WERE ABANDONED ON BLACK
MONDAY I'D CARED
FOR THEM...



WHAT
HAPPENED?



CLAYFACE.

HE...
CAPTURED
US... PUT US
HERE...

HE TELLS
ME WHAT TO
GROW. HE
MAKES THE
CHILDREN HARVEST
THE CROP.

HE KEEPS
ME MEAN... NOT
ENOUGH SUN...
BARELY ENOUGH
WATER...

HE FEEDS ME
SALT, BATMAN... DO
YOU KNOW WHAT
SALT DOES TO A
PLANT?



BUT NOW
YOU'RE
HERE

AND
NOW YOU'LL
HELP ME



YOU SEE, I FOUND
THIS PLACE BEFORE
CLAYFACE
ARRIVED.

YOUR
PLACE.

AN HONEST-
TO-GOODNESS
BAT-GAVE SECRET
HIDEOUT, FULL OF
ALL SORTS OF
NEAT THINGS...



COM-
PUTERS



EQUIPMENT



PLASTIC,
POISONOUS
LITTLE BOY
TOYS.



THIS

WHAT'S INSIDE,
BATS? I CAN'T
SEEM TO GET IT
OPEN--

ENOUGH
WHAT DO YOU
WANT FOR
IT?



FREE
US



HELP ME
DESTROY
CLAYFACE



THEN
LEAVE THE
PARK



AND
NEVER
COME
BACK

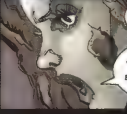


THEN YOU CAN HAVE
YOUR BOX AND
WHATEVER IT
CONTAINS.

PROMISE



I CAN'T
LEAVE THESE
CHILDREN WITH
YOU.



WHY NOT?
WHO ELSE WILL
TAKE CARE OF
THEM? YOU?

YOU'RE
RUNNING OUT
OF TIME, BATMAN!
I CAN FEEL
EVERY FOOTSTEP
ON THE GRASS
ABOVE US.

... CLAYFACE IS
COMING BACK!
HE'LL BE HERE
BY DAWN.









... SUPERIOR
TACTICS COUPLED
WITH THE TECHNO-
LOGICAL EDGE.



MY MEN ARE THE
BEST OF THE
GOTHAM BLUE
BOYS. GORDON
WON'T LAST A
WEEK WITH-
OUT THEIR
MUSCLE...

YOU'RE A
TACTICAL GENIUS,
BILL, EVERYBODY
KNOWS THAT--
BUT THE EDGE--



-- DON'T
INTERRUPT ME,
FOLEY...

GORDON

WE'RE GOING
TO BRING SOME LAW
BACK TO THIS TOWN,
YOU AND ME. WE'RE
GOING TO MAKE
PEOPLE LISTEN.

WE'RE
GOING TO
SPEAK WITH
AUTHORITY



...THE KIND
THAT COMES FROM
THE BARREL
OF A GUN.

AMMUNITION
9mm J&F

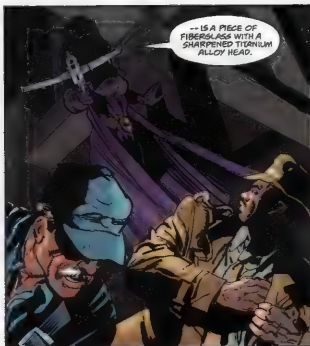


BILL... HOW
MUCH...
I MEAN--



I'VE GOT A
BULLET FOR EVERY
MAN, WOMAN,
AND CHILD IN
GOTHAM, FOLEY.

AW, AND
ALL I'VE GOT
FOR YOU--



-- IS A PIECE OF FIBERGLASS WITH A SHARPENED TITANIUM ALLOY HEAD.



DON'T, FOLEY, YOU'RE NOT EQUIPPED



YOU MURDERED FOUR INNOCENTS TODAY, PETTIT. YOU'RE GOING TO PAY FOR THAT.

INNOCENTS? YOU ACTUALLY BELIEVE THAT CRAP?



THERE WAS NOTHING INNOCENT ABOUT THOSE MEN. ANY OF THEM.

THEY WERE RADERZ AND TRUE FAGERZ. THEY WERE MURDERERS.



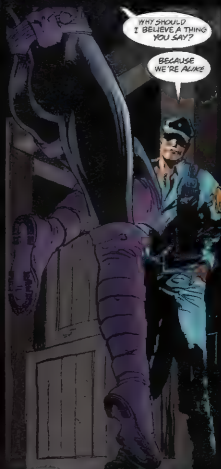
GORDON'S BOYS SAID--



--EXACTLY WHAT GORDON WANTED THEM TO SAY.

YOU KNOW WHAT THAT OLD MAN IS LIKE. HE'S TOO SENTIMENTAL, TOO SOFT FOR THE NML.

NOT LIKE US.



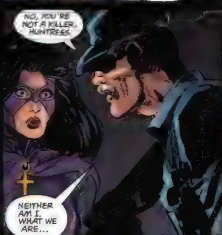
WHY SHOULD
I BELIEVE A THING
YOU SAY?

BECAUSE
WE'RE ALIVE



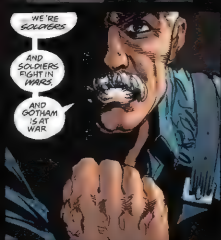
BE CAREFUL WHAT
YOU SAY, BILLY. I'M
NOT A KILLER--

--AND SINCE
WHEN HAS A CROSS-
BORN BEEN NON-
LETHAL WEAPONRY?



NO, YOU'RE
NOT A KILLER,
HUNTRESS.

NEITHER
AM I.
WHAT WE
ARE...



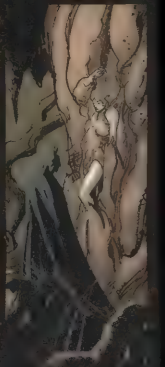
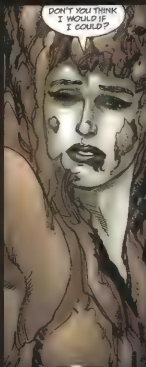
WE'RE
SOLDIERS

AND
SOLDIERS
FIGHT IN
WARS.

AND
GOTHAM
IS AT WAR.



AND WAR IS
HELL.





I FOUGHT CLAYFACE
AFTER THE QUAKE
HE NEARLY
KILLED ME

HE'S TOO POWERFUL
FOR ME TO TAKE
ALONE.



I
KNOW.



I HAVE
A PLAN

BUT YOU'LL
HAVE TO
HELP ME.

AND YOU'LL
HAVE TO DO
WHAT I SAY.



OF COURSE!
YOU KNOW
I WILL!

NO, I DON'T
BUT I DON'T HAVE
A CHOICE, AND
CLAYFACE IS THE
GREATER THREAT
RIGHT NOW



SO TELL
ME, WHAT DO
YOU NEED TO
BE STRONG
AGAIN?



WHAT DOES
ANY PLAN
NEED?



--KNOW
SHE'S DANGEROUS?
SHE'S CALLED "POISON".



...YOU ALL
KNOW THAT,
RIGHT?

SHE'S NOT
DANGEROUS
TO US.

SHE
TOOK CARE
OF US,
ROBIN.

UNTIL
GLAYFACE
CAME

"I DON'T
GET IT"

SHE GAVE US
FOOD. SHE MADE
US CLOTHES. SHE
MADE IT WARM
FOR US IN THE
WINTER.

BUT
WHY?



BECAUSE WE
RESPECT THE
GREEN.

SAY
WHAT?

YOU
DON'T
GET
IT

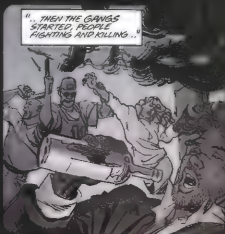


WE DIDN'T WANT TO LIVE IN THE
RUBBLE... IN THE FILTH-- IT
STINKS, ALL OF IT-- THE
ROTTING FOOD, THE
SEWAGE...

"...GOTHAM CITY
DIED MONTHS
AGO..."



"...THEN THE GANGS
STARTED, PEOPLE
FIGHTING AND KILLING..."



AND WHEN
WE WERE LEFT
BEHIND--

YEAH, ABOUT
THAT--

-- THE
ONLY PLACE THAT
WAS SAFE WAS
THE PARK.



IVY WAS ALREADY HERE. SHE
ASKED WHY WE WERE IN THE
PARK-- SHE CALLED IT HER
PARK--

SHE TOLD US WE
COULD STAY, THAT SHE
WOULD TAKE CARE
OF US.

IF WE
RESPECTED
THE GREEN.

BUT HOW--



-- DID WE GET HERE? WE'RE
ORPHANS. OUR PARENTS
WERE KILLED IN THE QUAKE

ALL
OF YOU?



YEAH, WE COULDN'T
GET OUT ON BLACK
MONDAY SO WE HAD
TO STAY.

IT WAS GOOD HERE, IN
THE PARK. BEFORE
CLAYFACE.



BUT NOW IT'S
OVER. EVEN IF BATMAN
BEATS HIM, WE'LL HAVE
TO LEAVE, WON'T WE?
BATMAN WILL MAKE US.

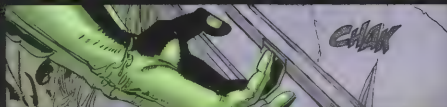


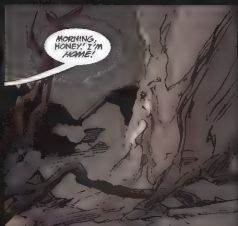
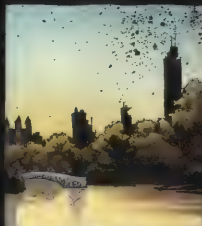
ROBIN

GO
AHEAD



GOT A
JOB FOR
YOU.





MORNING,
HONEY. I'M
HOME!



WAIT A MINUTE,
WAIT, WAIT!

WHERE
ARE THE *ASSHOLE*,
HONEY?



WHERE
ARE OUR
DARLINS, OUR
LITTLE CUP-
CAKES?

OUR
LITTLE
SLAVE
LABOR
FORCE?



ANSWER ME,
DOLL, OR I'LL
SALT YOUR EARTH
UNTIL YOU
SCREAM.

GET
YOUR HANDS
OFF HER!



YOU!

I WAS HOPING
YOU'D STOP BY,
ACTUALLY

LIKE WHAT I
DID WITH YOUR
PLACE?



NOT
PARTIC-
ULARLY



OH, YOU'RE NOT
EVEN TRYING.

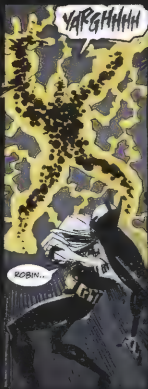
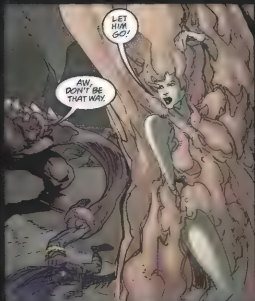


UNFF

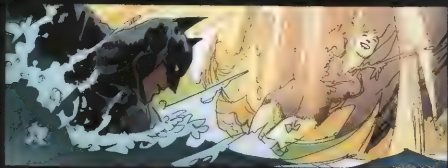
DON'T
DISAPPOINT
ME NOW. THIS
IS OUR BIG
FIGHT
SCENE!

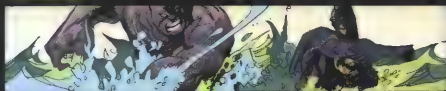
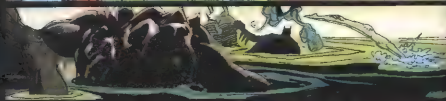


GONNA KILL
YA, NOW. GONNA
HURT YA A LOT!









and after the Earth shattered and the buildings crumbled, the nation abandoned Gotham City. Then only the
ashant, the vernal and the means remained in the place they called **NO MAN'S LAND**





TRAPPED
BY YOU



ABUSED



TORMENTED



DEFILED



NNNNNN

ZZZZZZ



POLLUTED

...YOU
ENSLAVED
CHILDREN...

--CHILDREN
I'D PROMISED
TO PROTECT--

...YOU
ENSLAVED
ME...

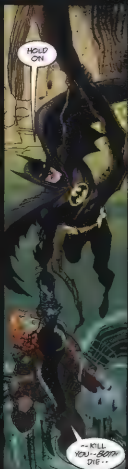
... AND
YOU ABUSED
THE GREEN

A full-page illustration of Poison Ivy. She is a woman with voluminous, curly red hair, pale skin, and dark lipstick. She wears a black, form-fitting, long-sleeved dress with a high collar and a single pink rose pinned to her left chest. She stands in a dark, gothic-style interior with stone walls and pillars. Several bright green, glowing vines or energy beams descend from above, passing through the scene. In the foreground, there are dark, shadowy figures of people, some appearing to be in a state of distress or unconsciousness. The overall atmosphere is dark and menacing.

NOW
YOU'RE GOING
TO PAY

FRUIT of the EARTH part 3

GREG RUCKA-writer
DAN JURGENS and
BILL SIENKIEWICZ-artists
NOELLE GOODINGS-colorist
WILDSTORM-color separations
JOHN COSTANZA-letterer
JOSEPH ILLIDGE-resoc. editor
DARRIN VINCENTO-editor
DENNIS O'NEIL-group editor
BATMAN created by
BOB KANE





ROBIN.
SECOND
CHARGE--

BOMBS
AWAY.

--ASHES
YOU'LL--



--BUBBLE
SKIN
YOU'LL--

WAIT A
MINUTE--



HOW'S
IT
GOING?

LOOKING

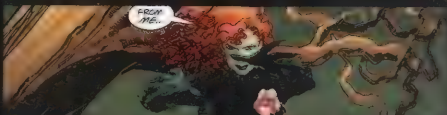
WHERE'S
MY?



--BLOW
ME UP YOU
CAN'T BLOW
ME UP!



YOU'LL
NEVER STOP
SCREAMING.
NEVER.





NYUM...
HE-HELP... HELP...
ME...

YOU'RE
GOOD SOIL.
FULL OF
NUTRIENTS.
FULL OF
MINERALS.



...PUH-PUH-
PLEEZE...

THE
ROOTS LIKE
YOU.



YOU'RE
CREATING
LIFE.

YOU'RE
FEEDING
ALL THOSE
PLANTS
GROWING
INSIDE YOU
RIGHT NOW

...HUM-
NYUM...
IVY...



THEY'RE GOING
TO USE YOU UP.

...NO NO
NYAHH...
IVY...

JUST
LIKE YOU
TRIED TO
DO TO
ME...



...LIKE
YOU TRIED
TO DO TO THE
CHILDREN.

...B-B-B-
BATM-M-MAN
...HELP ME...



I OFFERED
YOU A KISS
WHEN YOU FIRST
CAME TO MY
PARK...

...AND
YOU HIT ME
INSTEAD.

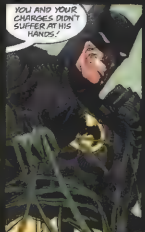
YES

I HADN'T
LET YOU
KILL HIM

I'VE HAD
ENOUGH OF
WHAT YOU WILL
OR WON'T
ALLOW!



YOU WEREN'T HELD
PRISONER BY THIS
MONSTER!

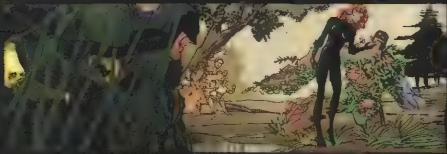


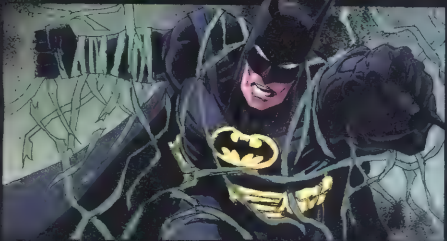
YOU AND YOUR
CHARGES DIDN'T
SUFFER AT HIS
HANDS!



SO
KEEP
OUT OF
IT!

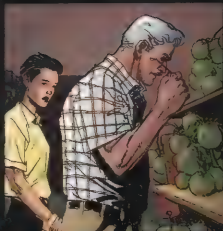
ROBIN!

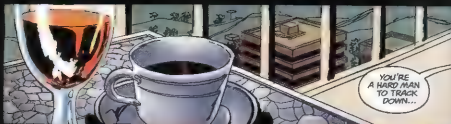












YOU'RE
A HARD MAN
TO TRACK
DOWN...





DID MY LITTLE
ASSASSIN HURT
YOUR FEELINGS?

WE HAD
A DEAL THEN
YOU TRIED TO
KILL ME

IT WAS THE
COIN, THAT'S ALL,
JIM. NEVER KNOW
WHICH SIDE'LL
COME UP.

IT DOESN'T MATTER
WE'RE THROUGH
GOT THAT?

NO.

I REALLY LIKE RENEE, SHE
AND I SHARE AN UNDER-
STANDING...

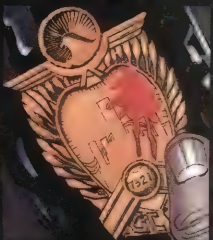
...YOU AND I DON'T WE'RE
NOT THROUGH, JIMMY. YOU
STILL OWE ME FOR MY
HELP WITH PENGUIN

WHERE
IS SHE?

THINK OF HER AS
PART OF MY
PAYMENT...

...AFTER ALL,
I'VE GOT THE REST
OF HER FAMILY...

YOU
ROTTEN...









HERE'S THE
DEAL

"YOU KEEP THE
PARK, KEEP THE
ORDER

"DON'T LET ANYONE--
TWO-FACE, PENGUIN,
FREEZE--ANY OF
THEM, TAKE IT OVER



"CARE FOR THE
CHILDREN

"TUESDAYS AND
FRIDAYS YOU RELEASE
PRODUCE TO THE
CITY--LEAVE IT AT
THE SOUTH GATE
OF THE PARK.



"GROW ONLY WHAT
THE SOIL WILL STAND.
GROW ONLY WHAT
WE'LL NEED.

"I'LL
ARRANGE FOR
DISTRIBUTION

"YOU DO THESE THINGS,
I'LL LEAVE YOU ALONE."



YES.

and after the Earth shattered and the buildings crumbled, the nation abandoned Gotham City. Then only the valiant, the vengeful and the insane remained in the place they called

NO MAN'S LAND

11:45 PM

YOU MIGHT AS WELL CRAWL OFF NOW, *SANCHEZ*! THIS IS JET'S TERRITORY!

OOOH, I'M SHAKIN'!

SHE'S SPENT HER WHOLE LIFE IN WAR ZONES

THIS IS JUST ONE MORE

I'LL TAKE ON ALL YOU PUNKS! COME ON!

OH YEAH?

COME ON!

WHO THE PEOPLE ARE, WHAT THEY SHOUT ABOUT, THE TERRITORY THEY BATTLE OVER MAY BE DIFFERENT, BUT ONE THING NEVER CHANGES

SHUNN!

VIOLENCE.

AGHH!

THE LANGUAGE OF FORCE AND FISTS.

WACKY,

I COVER THE WATERFRONT

JANET HARVEY - WRITER
SERGIO CARIELLO - PENCILLER
MATT RYAN - INKER
PAMELA RAMBO - COLORIST
TODD KLEIN - LETTERER
JOSEPH ILLIDGE - ASSOC. ED.
DENNIS O'NEIL - EDITOR

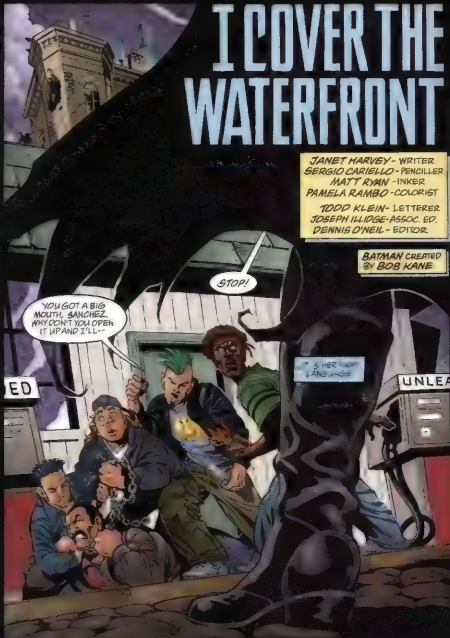
BATMAN CREATED
BY BOB KANE

STOP!

YOU GOT A BIG
MOUTH, SANCHEZ.
WHY DON'T YOU OPEN
IT UP AND I'LL--

"5 HER
LANGUAGE"

UNLEA





HOO
HA-HA
HOO!

GET A LOAD
OF THIS! IT'S LI'L
ORPHAN NINJA!



MEE-
HEE!

HAH-
HAH!

HEY KID, YOU KNOW
HALLOWEEN IS STILL
THREE MONTHS AWAY!

SWAHA-
HAHA!



THEY HAVE
UNDERESTIMATED
HER.



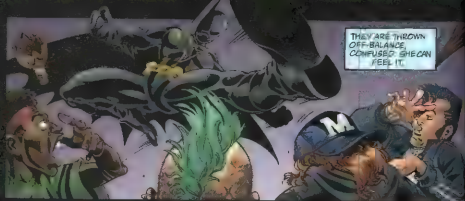
GGG



NOOOOOOOO--

OH SH

THAT MLL
YAKK IT BAD



THEY ARE THROWN
OFF-BALANCE,
CONFUSED. SHE CAN
FEEL IT.



AND IT
FEELS
GOOD

AGH!



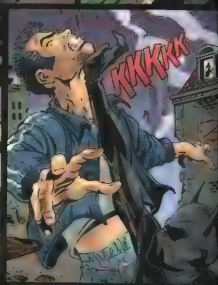
THE AIR WHISTLING
AROUND HER



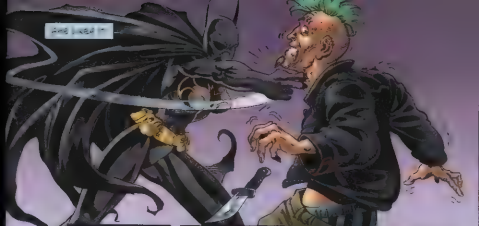
THE CRUNCH AS
THE BLOW CONNECTS.



THEIR
FEAR



KIKIKIKIK



SHE LIKES IT



SHE LIKES IT
TOO MUCH

STOP



STOP
NOW



SANITARY

THE MESSAGE HAS
BEEN DELIVERED.



THE TERRITORY
IS MINE



YEAH! YEAH! WHO'S
LAUGHING NOW, YA
BUMS?

HARDER HARDER
WHO'S LAUGHING
NOW?

UP YOURS,
SANCHEZ!
WE'LL BE
BACK!



YEAH,
YEAH,
YEAH

HAVE
A NICE
DAY.



HEH, HEH,
HEH...



12:10 AM

HOO,
HAH!

THAT WAS
MORE ENTER-
TAINMENT
THAN I'VE HAD
IN WEEKS. DID
YOU SEE THE
LOOK ON THAT
KID'S FACE?

TARGET SECURED. ALL
THAT'S LEFT IS TO SEND THE
PREARRANGED COMMAND
CODE ..



MAN, I WOULD
HAVE WATCHED THAT
ON PAY-PER-VIEW.

THIS
CALLS FOR A
CELEBRATION

AND
WAIT



NOW...THERE'S GOTTA
BE SOMETHING LEFT
HERE...AH!

IT'S WARM,
AND THERE'S NOTHING
LEFT BUT GRAPE, BUT
I'VE BEEN SAYING
IT...



BOTTOMS
UP, KID! HERE'S
TO THE BAT!

DOESN'T
THIS GUY
EVER SHUT
UP?

12:15AM

SHE'S
TAKEN THE GAS
STATION.

GOOD
WE MOVE

NO. JOKER'S FORCES
JUST TOOK THE WEST SIDE.
THERE'S TOO MUCH ACTIVITY
IN THE NORTHEAST
CORRIDOR.

WHAT?

HOW MANY HOURS
DOES THE HOSPITAL
UNIT HAVE LEFT ON
THE GENERATOR?

ANOTHER SIX.
EIGHT, IF THEY CUT
THE EXTERIOR
LIGHTS.

CUT
THEM.

YOU'RE
GOING TO LET
HER HANG
THERE?

IT'S TOO DANGEROUS
TO SEND FORCES
THROUGH NOW. AND
NOT WORTH THE
RISK. WE MOVE
AT DAWN.

IT'LL BE
A LONG NIGHT
FOR THE
GIRL.

YES IT
WILL.

BUT
SHE CAN DO
THE JOB.



8:35 PM

NOT LIKE EARLIER...

ANY MORE INFORMATION ON THAT THING WE SPOKE ABOUT?

HA, YOU HAD TO ASK FOR GASOLINE, DIDN'T YOU? IT DOESN'T LOOK GOOD.

WE HAVE STRINGERS NEGOTIATING WITH OUR USUAL CONNECTIONS, BUT SO FAR NOTHING. GAS IS TAPPED OUT FROM HERE TO MIDTOWN.

IN TWELVE HOURS, WE RUN OUT OF FUEL FOR THE EMERGENCY GENERATOR THAT POWERS THE M.A.S.H. UNIT.

LOOK, I'M TRYING, BUT...

...HAVE YOU THOUGHT OF ANY... HUH?

SHE WAS SO EAGER

YES, BATGIRL? WHAT IS IT?

SO EAGER TO PLEASE...

SHE KNOWS WHERE THE GAS IS.

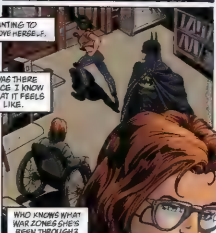
AMUSEMENT MILE.

IT'S A WAR ZONE BETWEEN HERE AND THERE, I CAN'T SEND HER UP THERE ALONE.

OF COURSE. SHE USED TO BE ONE OF MY STRINGERS UPTOWN. SHE MUST KNOW SOMEONE!

SHE'S JUST A KID.

SHE KNOWS THAT AREA BLIND-FOLED!



2:39 AM

WHO KNOWS WHAT GOES
THROUGH HER MIND AT ALL?

THOSE
KIDS.

I'VE KNOWN THEM FOR YEARS.
EVER SINCE THEY WERE KIDS.
JIMMY AND HIS FRIENDS USED TO
COME IN HERE AND TRY TO
BOOST STUFF-- POTATO
CHIPS, LIGHTERS.

SMALL STUFF.
JUST FOR KICKS. I
TOLD THEM...

"YOU'LL NEVER GET ANYWHERE WITH
THAT ATTITUDE. CRIME DOESN'T PAY.
YOU GOTTA GROW UP. TAKE SOME
RESPONSIBILITY. BECOME A
CONTRIBUTIN' MEMBER
OF SOCIETY."

SOCIETY

WHAT THE
HECK DID I
KNOW?

THEN THIS HAPPENS,
AND THE SMALL-TIME
BOOSTERS GO BIG
TIME. THEY STAKE OUT
TERRITORY, GET
CONNECTIONS,
START TRADING
STUFF UP

SUDDENLY, THE
PETTY CRIMINALS
ARE THE ONLY
GAME IN TOWN
IF YOU WANT
TO SURVIVE.
YOU PLAY

I WAS LUCKY. THIS STATION? WAS
LIKE SITTIN' ON A GOLDMINE. I
COULD TRADE WITH ANYBODY.
GAS, BATTERIES, LIGHTER FLUID,
BEEF JERKY, BEER. I WAS THE
KING OF THE HILL.

FOR A WHILE.
THEN THEY GOT
BRAVE.

THREE MONTHS,
FOUR MONTHS,
FIVE MONTHS
GO BY. THE
STUFF RUNS
OUT.

THEY KNOW I'M
HOLDIN' A STASH OF
MY OWN. SAVING IT.
AND THEY FIGURE WHY
TRADE WITH THE OLD
MAN.

WHEN THEY CAN
JUST OFF HIM AND
KEEP THE WHOLE
SWEET DEAL FOR
THEMSELVES?

VICIOUS LITTLE
PINKS. THEY GOT NO
RESPECT. THEY NEVER
FIGURED...

...I KNEW
WHERE TO GET A
BETTER DEAL,
EH...?



HE WAS
MAKING
TOO MUCH
NOISE

BESIDES, SHE IS
RESTLESS AND
NEEDS TO GET A
SENSE OF THE
TERRITORY.

LEARN ITS SOUNDS, ITS
SMELLS, ITS RHYTHMS. THE
PLACES WHERE IT IS
FORTIFIED, AND WHERE IT
IS VULNERABLE.

MAKE IT
HERS.

SHE'S DONE WHAT WAS
ASKED. SECURED THE
AREA, AND NOW HE WILL
COME AND GET THE GAS

HE SAID
HE'D COME

WHERE
IS HER

SOMEWHERE OUT THERE,
SHE KNOWS THEY ARE
PLANNING THEIR NEXT
MOVE, AND ONE THING
IS FOR SURE.

THEY WILL NOT
UNDERESTIMATE
HER AGAIN

VOICES
COMING
FROM...



I DUNNO ABOUT THIS, JIMMY...

THE MIDWINTER



I MEAN, IT'S A GAS STATION, RIGHT? IT'LL EXPLODE. WHY YOU WANNA GO SHOOTIN' A ROCKET LAUNCHER AT A GAS STATION?

THE PENGUIN SAYS THAT'S THE LAST ONE.

I WANNA PROVE A POINT.

YEAH, BUT...IF YOU BLOW IT UP... WHAT KIND OF POINT IS THAT?

YEAH, JIMMY. I MEAN, THE THING DOESN'T MAKE SENSE THAT?



LOOK, DON'T YOU GUYS GET IT? THIS IS OUR TERRITORY. OURS.

IF WORD GETS OUT WE GOT KICKED OFFA SANCHEZ'S PLACE, MAN, WE MIGHT AS WELL GET IN LINE WITH THE OTHER LOSERS

WE GOTTA TEACH THEM A LESSON.

WE GOTTA TEACH THEM THAT NOBODY MESSES WITH THE JETS

HE'S SCARED OF THE GIRL



SHUT UP, JANGO!

BAWK BAWK BAWK BAWK...

SHUT UP! YOU GUYS ARE LAZY, MAN. YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING. YOU THINK YOU GOT A BETTER IDEA?

JANGO TOOK KARATE, MAN. HE WAS BLACK BELT IN SCHOOL. WEREN'T YOU, JANG?



YEAH





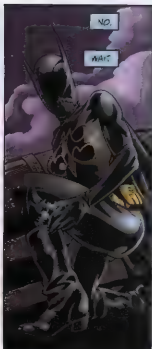
SHE CAN'T HEAR THEM, BUT SHE CAN SEE THAT THEY ARE SLOPPY AND DISORGANIZED.

HOWEVER, THEY HAVE SOME KIND OF ROCKET LAUNCHER. SOMEBODY HAS CONNECTIONS IN CHINATOWN, AND THAT MEANS GUNPOWDER. NO TELLING HOW MUCH

OKAY, JANGO, YOU WANNA PLAY? HERE'S WHAT WE DO.



"APA" NOW?



NO.

WAIT?



THEY'RE MOVING

FOLLOW



YOO-HOO! HEY, ~~SAN~~ SANCHEZ! I GOT SOMETHING OUT HERE FOR YOU AND YOUR GIRL-FRIEND!

WHY YOU--



--ROTTEN LITTLE SON OF A TWO-TIME--

3:55AM

YEAH, GANCHEZ!
LOOKEE HERE!

MY FRIEND WITH THE
ROCKET LAUNCHER SAYS
IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO TAKE
A LITTLE WALK DOWNTOWN
AND LEAVE THE STATION
FOR US TO TAKE CARE
OF!

OTHERWISE, WE'RE
GONNA BLOW A NICE BIG
HOLE IN YOUR CLEAN
WINDOWS, AND YOU WON'T
BE NOTHIN' BUT A
GREASE SPOT!

WHAT'D'YA
SAY TO THAT?



I SAY YOU'LL
HAVE TO SHOOT IT
THROUGH ME
FIRST.

OKAY. WE GAVE
YOU YOUR CHANCE.
NOW YOU'RE GONNA
GO UP.

BUT FIRST,
WE'RE GONNA
SIPHON OFF
WHATEVER WE
CAN.

JOHNNY, GO
GET THAT GAS CAN
OVER THERE AND
FILL IT UP.

ME?



YEAH, YOU!
COME ON, THE
NINJA GIRL AIN'T
AROUND AND I
GOT YOU COVERED.
DON'T BE A
JERK!

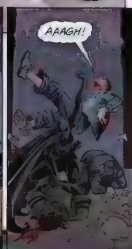
WELL...
ALL RIGHT.

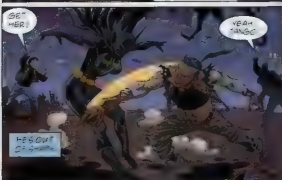


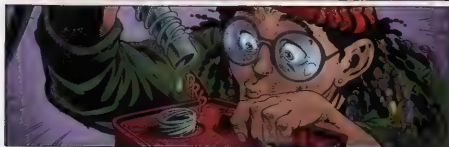
AND IF YOU
TRY TO STOP HIM,
YOU KNOW WHAT'S
COMING



HEY-- YOU'RE QUIET ALL
OF A SUDDEN, GANCHEZ.
WHAT GIVES?









4:15 AM

KA-BOOM

LOST

SHE LOST THE
TERRITORY

WHY?



HEEEEEEE--



KRAK!

THAT WAS FOR
THE GAS STATION.

AAAGH--
GHUH--



NHUUH--

ENDANGERING
THE KID'S LIFE.

AND
THIS...

...S FOR...

BATGIRL--
STOP!

AND THAT WAS
FOR THE MEDICAL
UNIT.



I KNOW WHAT
YOU'RE THINKING,
GIRL, BUT LOOK
AT WHAT YOU'RE
DOING

STOP FOR
A SECOND AND
LOOK LOOK

YOU THINK
YOU FAILED? YOU
LOST EVERYTHING
YOU THINK NONE
OF THIS MAKES
ANYSENSE

YOU'RE ANGRY, AND
YOU WANT TO TAKE IT OUT
ON THIS GUY'S HIDE

YOU FIGURE
YOU'VE GOT NOTHING
LEFT TO LOSE.

YOU'RE
WRONG



IF YOU STOMP THAT GUY, YOU
LOSE THE MOST IMPORTANT THING OF
ALL. AND THAT'S THE THING THAT
SEPARATES YOU FROM HIM.

YOU
LOSE YOUR
PRINCIPLES



WHEN THE GAS RAN
OUT HERE, I THOUGHT
OF GOING AWAY, GIVING
THOSE ANIMALS THEIR
"TERRITORY."

AFTER ALL, I
THOUGHT, WHAT DO
I HAVE TO LOSE? THE
GAS IS GONE. WHAT
DO I HAVE TO FIGHT
FOR?



DON'T LET THEM DRAG YOU
DOWN TO THEIR LEVEL.

YOU CAN
CARE ABOUT DOING
WHAT'S RIGHT.

OR YOU CAN
STOP CARING



AND THEN I REALIZED:
IT WASN'T ABOUT THE
GAS

IT WAS
THE PRINCIPLE OF
THE THING.



AND TURN INTO
ANOTHER
ANIMAL

DO YOU
UNDERSTAND
WHAT I'M
SAYING?



SO I STAYED. I WASHED THE WINDOWS
AND I HUNG THE SIGN OUT EVERY DAY,
AND I MADE THIS GAS STATION MY LAST
LITTLE CORNER OF CIVILIZATION.
BECAUSE IN THE MIDDLE OF ALL THIS
MADNESS...

...IT WAS
GOING TO STAND
FOR SOMETHING

YOU STILL
HAVE THAT CHOICE
YOU DON'T HAVE
TO DO THIS



SHE UNDER
STANDS



YOU FOLLOWED
ORDERS

GOOD JOB,
SOLDIER

HEY
KID

C'MERE

JIMMY WAS RIGHT

I THINK
YOU LEARNED
SOMETHING
TODAY, DON'T
YOU?

YEAH* OH, RIGHT.
YOU DON'T TALK.

THERE'S SOMETHING
I WANT YOU TO HAVE

THERE WAS A STASH,
HIDDEN IN A LOCKED
BROOM CLOSET IN THE
HOT DOG STAND DOWN
THE STREET.

I THINK YOU
DESERVE THIS, AND
I THINK YOU'LL DO
WHAT'S RIGHT WITH
IT.

BECAUSE
YOU CARE

THERE WAS ENOUGH
FUEL THERE TO KEEP
THE GENERATOR GOING
FOR ANOTHER TWO WEEKS.

THE INJURED WERE TAKEN
BACK TO THE M.A.S.H.
UNIT TO BE TREATED. TIME
PASSED. BROKEN
BONES HEALED.

BUT
SOME
THINGS...

...WILL NEVER
BE THE SAME.



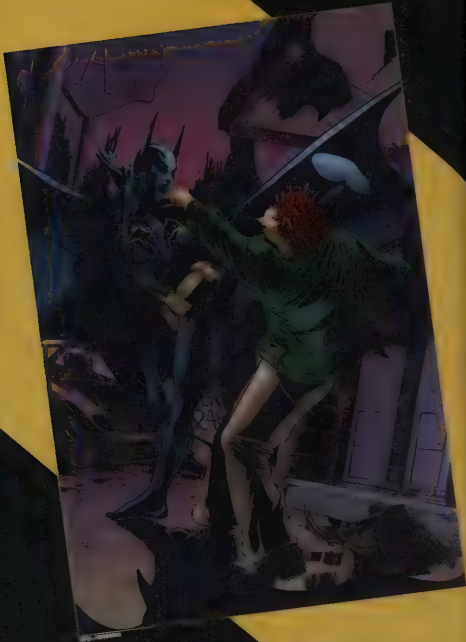
COVER GALLERY











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THESE POOR PEOPLE.
CAST OFF BY THEIR
OWN GOVERNMENT.
LOWED INTO SUBMISSION
BY PETTY TYRANTS.

NOT ANY-
MORE.

STEWED TOMATOES?!
ONE CAN OF STEWED TOMATOES?
THAT'S YOUR TRIBUTE?! THAT'S
WHAT YOU BRING TO ME?!

IT'S ALL
I'VE GOT,
MAD
HATTER.

oh?



LADIES AND
GENTLEMEN, IT'S OVER.
YOU'RE FREE TO TAKE BACK
WHAT'S RIGHTFULLY
YOURS.

ARE YOU
ALL RIGHT,
SIR?

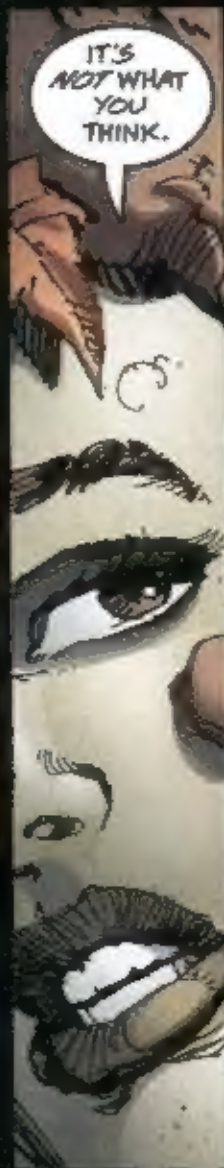
I... YES.
YES.





ROBIN.
THE KIDS.

ON
IT.



IT'S
NOT WHAT
YOU
THINK.

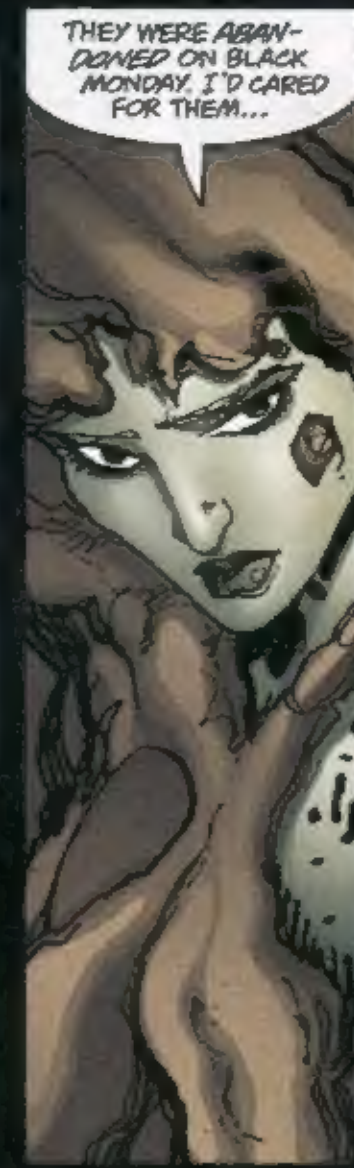


--GONNA
BE FINE,
NOW.

YOU
CAN'T
LEAVE
HER!



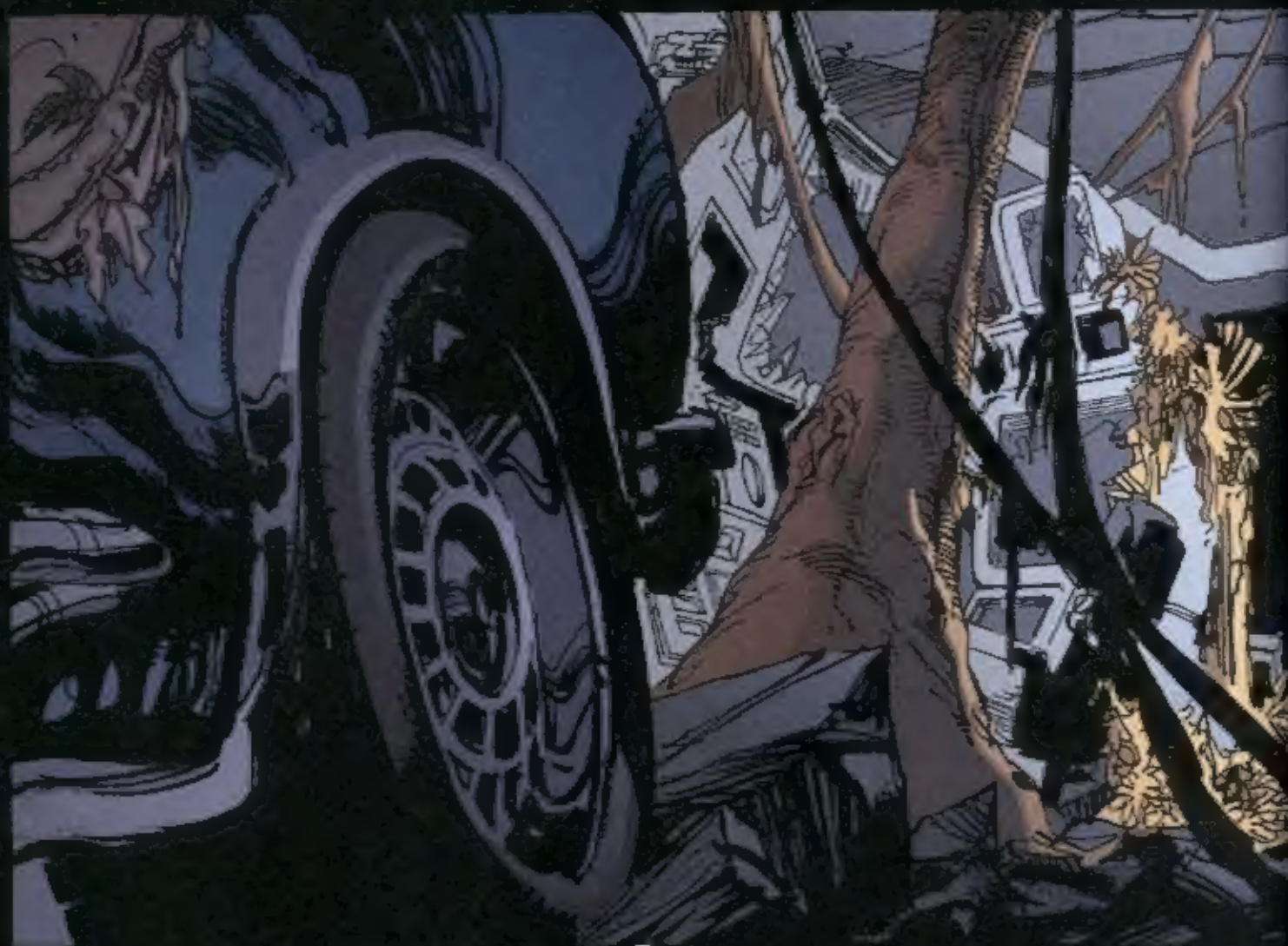
EXPLAIN
IT. FIRST.



THEY WERE ABAN-
DONED ON BLACK
MONDAY. I'D CARED
FOR THEM...



WHAT
HAPPENED?



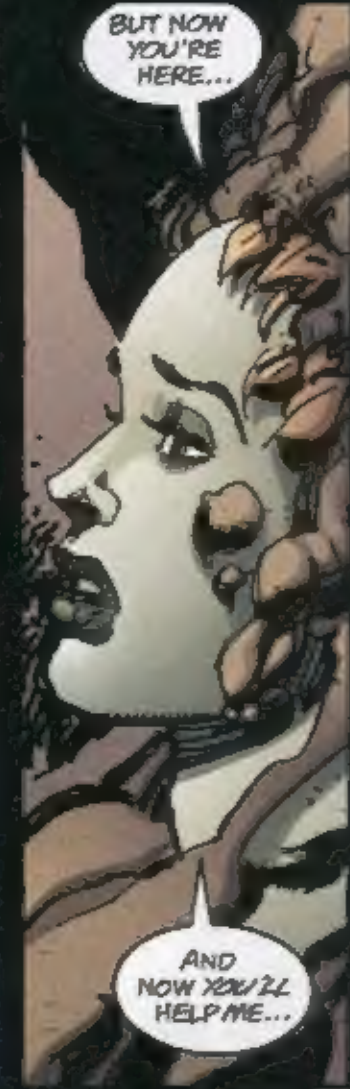
CLAYFACE.

HE...
CAPTURED
US... PUT US
HERE...

HE TELLS
ME WHAT TO
GROW. HE
MAKES THE
CHILDREN HARVEST
THE CROP.

HE KEEPS
ME WEAK... NOT
ENOUGH SUN...
BARELY ENOUGH
WATER...

HE FEEDS ME
SALT, BATMAN... DO
YOU KNOW WHAT
SALT DOES TO A
PLANT?



BUT NOW
YOU'RE
HERE...

AND
NOW YOU'LL
HELP ME...



...TRAPPED BY YOU...



...ABUSED...



...TORMENTED...



...DEFILED...



MMRRRAA

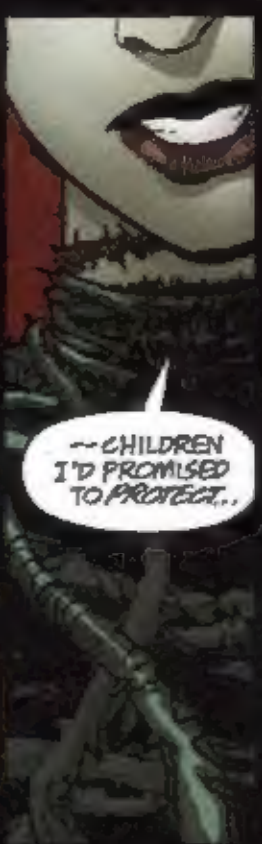
TZZTZZAT



...POLLUTED...



...YOU ENSLAVED CHILDREN...



-- CHILDREN I'D PROMISED TO PROTECT...



...YOU ENSLAVED ME...



...AND YOU ABUSED THE GREEN...